

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delta Air Lines announced yesterday a smoking ban on all Mexico flights, becoming the first U.S. airline to completely prohibit smoking. The ban will come into effect on Jan. 1, 1995. The company said in a statement: "We have been surveying some 22,000 passengers on international flights to determine if an overwhelming number of travellers wanted to make flying experience smoother," the company said.

Group appeals for release of Omanis

BAHRAIN (AP) — A London-based Islamic human rights group Saturday appealed for help in freeing what it said were more than 200 fundamentalists arrested by authorities in the Sultanate of Oman. Diplomats said earlier the detainees were accused of stirring up anti-government agitation. Oman, one of the most politically stable countries in the region, has not officially disclosed the arrests, which the diplomats say occurred six weeks ago. The diplomats, who broke the news of the crackdown earlier in the week, said Saturday several of the detainees had been released after they were cleared in the investigations. The diplomats had no other figures. A London-based group called Liberty for the Balkans, mainly concerned with one of the detainees, identified as Ahmad Baba' Khayri, an Egyptian professor from the University of Alexandria, seconded to the sultanate since 1988. It said Mr. Khayri, who was serving as an assistant professor of production mechanics at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, was first summoned by Omani police on June 13. It said other Omanis, political activists, have been in detention since May 25.

Crown Prince returns from Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return from a several-day visit to Turkey. The Crown Prince held talks with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel and explained the central role Jordan plays in the Middle East peace process and the Kingdom's effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Prince Hassan was also received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir, chief of the Royal Court, Acting Prime Minister Thuan Hikmat and Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, other officials and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Syria elects new parliament

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Syria's interior minister, Mohammad Harba late Saturday announced the names of the winners in the latest Syrian parliamentary elections. Mr. Harba said that of the 250 elected members of parliament, 127 belonged to the labour sector. He added that the newly-elected members numbered 158 and the winning incumbents numbered 92. He said there were 83 independents elected, and of them, 38 were from the labour sector. Mr. Harba said 24 women were elected to parliamentary seats, which was an increase of three over the previous legislature.

Settlers scuffle with fence-builders

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (R) — Troops broke up scuffling on Saturday between Jewish settlers and a group of Israeli, Palestinian and foreign volunteers who were building a fence to protect Palestinians from settler attacks, witnesses said. They said a group of 20 settlers shoved and cursed the dozen volunteers, who said they crept the fence between settler and Palestinian homes to stop Palestinians from the stones, petrol bombs, and bricks they said settlers frequently threw at the Palestinians' houses. Troops arrived and ejected both sides from the area.

Peres: No Lebanon deal without Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Saturday ruled out a separate peace deal with Lebanon, saying Beirut had to wait for a green light from Damascus.

"Unfortunately I do not believe Lebanon can make peace ahead of Syria, because Lebanon receives its orders from Damascus and has its hands and feet tied," Mr. Peres told military radio.

He said Lebanon had sent Israel "polite messages" in recent months but offered no new initiatives.

Uri Lubrani, Israeli coordinator in South Lebanon, said his country insisted on disarmament of the Hezbollah group and a guarantee against reprisals on Israeli-backed militiamen.

Both Israel and Lebanon denied a report in Friday's edition of *Yediot Ahronot* newspaper that they had made secret contacts aimed at holding separate peace negotiations.

The paper said the Syrians would "close their eyes" to a Lebanese initiative, which would propose an Israeli zone" in South Lebanon in return for a normalisation of ties.

(Continued on page 7)

Two Israelis killed, Hamas claims attack, vows more

GAZA (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Saturday the killing of two Israeli construction workers near Tel Aviv, and vowed to strike twice more by the end of the year.

Hamas said in a statement the attack on Friday was in retaliation for the February 25 killing of more than 30 Palestinian worshippers at the Hebron mosque where the massacre occurred.

Hamas said its guerrillas had "reached into the depths of the Hebrew state, after they crossed all the roadblocks and Israeli security obstacles," to enter the building near Ramle's central bus station.

After the attack the guerrillas "returned safely to their bases," the statement said.

The attack came at a sensitive juncture in plans to expand Palestinian autonomy, just two days before an early empowerment agreement was to be signed, giving

(Continued on page 7)

Shaath to sign self-rule expansion accord Monday

GAZA (Agencies) — Senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official Nabil Shaath said on Saturday the Israeli-PLO agreement on extending elements of Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank would be signed on Monday at the Gaza Strip.

The signing will pave the way for a new phase in the 11-month-old peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, giving PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a long-awaited foothold in the still-occupied West Bank.

Dr. Shaath, speaking after a meeting of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that administers self-rule, said: "The Palestinian authority has endorsed the agreement initially in Alexandria and has authorised me to sign it on Monday at Erez."

Under the "early empowerment" accord hammered out in talks in Egypt and initialised on Wednesday, Israel will hand over to the PLO control of education, health, taxation, tourism, and social welfare. Dr. Shaath told reporters that agreements on border crossings and "safe passages" for Palestinians travelling

through Israel — thorny elements of the original accord on Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, details of which were deferred to take effect in May — would be implemented immediately after the Monday signing.

The PNA has approved the agreements on "safe passages" between Gaza and Jericho and the border crossings at the King Hussein Bridge, between Jericho and Jordan, and Rafah, between Gaza and Egypt, Dr. Shaath said.

All these will be signed, and implementation of this will begin immediately thereafter," Dr. Shaath said.

Israel's police chief said on Saturday the killing of two Israelis by militants near Tel Aviv were a test of joint PLO-Israeli efforts to curb Palestinian guerrilla attacks on Jews.

In Gaza, regional Palestinian police commander Major-General Abdul Razak Al Majaydeh, rejected an earlier Israeli army statement

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U.S. urges citizens to leave Somalia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has urged its nationals to leave Somalia immediately ahead of the withdrawal of U.S. diplomats from Mogadishu by next month.

"U.S. citizens presently in Somalia are advised to leave the country immediately," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry.

The 25 diplomats in the U.S. liaison office in Somalia and the 55 Marines stationed there to protect them will have been transferred to Nairobi by Sept. 15, Mr. McCurry said.

Several hundred U.S. civilians currently live in Somalia, with 300 of them working with the U.N. mission in "a and 50 others with other humanitarian groups," the spokesman said.

Mr. McCurry was pessimistic about the chances for the kind of "normalization" in Somalia that would allow U.S. nationals to resume their work there. "There are very few facts, leaders will make the necessary compromises," he said.

The United States says it is pulling out due to the lack of progress in the reconciliation process, and the related poor security conditions.

On Thursday, the U.N. Security Council decided to cut the number of U.N. troops in Somalia by 1,500 and did not rule out a total withdrawal if a political settlement were not reached soon.

The decision came after gunmen believed to be members of General Mohammad Farah Aideed's militia massacred seven Indian peacekeepers and wounded nine others Monday.

In a unanimous statement read by Chairman Yuli Vorontsov, the Security Council said the slayings were a "premeditated attack" and members approved the reduction that will bring the force down to 17,200 men.

Mr. Vorontsov also raised concerns over the lack of progress in peace talks between Somalian clans, stressing that continued international support and the peacekeeping mission was conditioned on reaching a political settlement.

Some 18,700 peacekeepers are currently deployed in Somalia under a U.N. mandate that was to expire on September 30 and which sets March 1995 as the date for completion of the mission.

The council asked U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to

give them a report by Sept. 30 on prospects for national reconciliation in Somalia and the options for the U.N. force in the next month.

The U.S. envoy in Mogadishu Daniel Simpson said on Friday:

"We are leaving by the middle of September for two basic reasons — the strong feeling Somalis have not made substantial progress towards a settlement and because the security situation just gets worse."

Analysts said the more it would certainly undermine U.N. peacekeeping efforts in the country.

Mr. Simpson noted that more than 200 U.N. peacekeepers had been killed since March 31 when the U.S. and other Western nations pulled out most staff and handed over policing of the volatile country to a U.N. force drawn from Third World countries.

"They (Somali warlords) are prepared to dance for as long as the bar is open and the orchestra is playing but they feel no urgency to reach a settlement. All of us are pretty sick of it," he added.

He said the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu will move to the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Gone with the Americans will be 80 M-60 tanks, 12 Cobra attack helicopters, armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and water purification tanks.

Political analysts in Nairobi said without the American equipment, the U.N. military muscle in Somalia will be massively weakened. They said the U.S. appeared to be putting pressure on the U.N. to leave Somalia too.

"It's going to be a difficult one for the U.N. to operate without the American equipment, especially the tanks and helicopters. This is certainly U.S. pressure on the U.N. to leave as well," a Western ambassador in Nairobi told Reuters.

Mr. Simpson said the foreign presence in some quarters is viewed as part of Somalia's problem and that an end to foreign involvement may pressure factions into an accord.

"Most of the shooting you see now is outside the port, airport and the UNOSOM compound. They are fighting over contracts and positioning themselves to loot when the U.N. goes," he said.

"I can't imagine anyone is going to hurry back here to deal with Somalia's problems one more time," he added.

Plane skids off runway to rails

ISTANBUL (AFP) — One hundred and sixty passengers and crew survived a brush with disaster Saturday when their airliner skidded off the runway, crossed a motorway and ran onto a railway line after landing at Istanbul airport, police said.

The Turkish THY airline Boeing 737 had flown in from Trabzon with 160 people aboard when it skewed off the runway in rainy conditions after the pilot apparently lost control of the plane, informed sources added.

A passenger and an airhostess were slightly injured in the incident, police said.

Police said a catastrophe was averted because traffic on the motorway was light. Just one driver had to brake hard to avoid the plane. And television images of the incident showed the plane only narrowly missed striking high-tension wires near the airport.

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U.N. study proposes major project to develop Gaza fishing industry

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is no shortage of fish in the Eastern Mediterranean and it should not have been difficult for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to make a decent living and engage in a flourishing trade in fish had it not been for the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Now that the Gaza Strip is under Palestinian administration, immense potential exists for the residents of the strip to take full advantage of the possibilities available, says a study conducted by a U.N. agency in coordination with the Arab League and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The study, conducted by the Amman-based Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCAW) in March-April this year, envisages about \$10 million in total spending for a project geared to develop the fishing sector in the Gaza Strip.

It involves building facilities such as berthing and unloading quays, auction hall, slipways, workshops and stores for fishermen at Gaza in addition to fishing shelters at Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah.

"The imposition of heavy

taxes, fines and license fees on the fishermen and boats by the Israeli administration made the life of the Palestinian fisherman intolerable, and forced some of them to drift away from fisheries and to look for another profession," said the study.

The study, a copy of which made available to the Jordan Times, found that about 2,500 Gazans were employed in the fishing sector with 748 boats of various sizes.

Among the fish available off the 45-kilometre Gaza coast are mullets, mackerel, sardine, sea bass, salem, saddle bream, sole fish, shark, shrimp and cuttle fish.

Wholesale price of "good quality" varieties such as red mullets, groupers and breams ranges between \$10 and \$25 per kilogramme, shrimps \$25 and \$30, and sardines 50 cents and \$2.5 per kilogramme, the study found.

Auctioneers receive a five per cent commission from fishermen while the buyer pays in addition three per cent municipal fees and 17 per cent value added tax.

Fishing gear are available on rent from a cooperative society in the Gaza Strip in addition to 10 other private dealers, but at high costs, noted the study.

It lists the immediate objectives of the project it

has proposed as improving fisheries management, enforcing regulations, supporting fishermen through services and financing, and increase the level of fish output at Gaza to 5,000 tonnes per year.

The long-term objectives of the project, it says, include raising production to 7,500 tonnes per year, improving efficiency of the sector as well as the income and living standards of fishermen, increasing the availability of fish to the local population, and promoting exports and reducing imports.

Another long-term objective of the project is to develop fish-processing facilities and installations.

In general, the proposed project, if and when implemented, should go a long way towards freeing the Gaza fishing sector from constraints imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities. However, conditions attached by Israel in its negotiations with the PLO on self-rule arrangements might pose difficulties, experts say.

It is expected that the proposed project will be financed from funds pledged by international donors to help develop the economy of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to pay compensation in 'copter downing'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Friday it would pay \$100,000 in compensation to the families of the 11 foreign nationals who were killed in the April downing of two military helicopters in northern Iraq. The payments will go to the families of the six British, Turkish and French military members killed in the April 14 incident. Pentagon spokesman Major Tom LaRoche said the families of five Kurdish workers employed by the U.S. government will receive a death benefit in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and the Pentagon will supplement that payment to bring it up to \$100,000. The Pentagon said in a report released earlier this year that the pilots of two U.S. fighter planes had misidentified the helicopters as Iraqi and that crews on the observation plane had failed to tell the pilots the choppers were friendly. Twenty-six people aboard the two U.S. army helicopters were killed in the shooting by the fighter planes that were patrolling a restricted zone over Iraq. Family members of the U.S. military personnel on board the aircraft were eligible for a \$100,000 insurance payment and all but one had contributed to become eligible for a \$200,000 payment.

Arab, Israeli naval officers to attend symposium

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canada will host a symposium for naval officers from the Middle East that for the first time will bring together high-level Israeli and Arab officers, External Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet said Friday. The conference, to be held in the eastern city of Halifax from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, will focus on joint search and rescue operations, prevention of accidents at sea and cooperation in enforcing security in the region. "Canada is strongly committed to taking concrete steps to advance the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Ouellet. "This symposium represents a rare opportunity for senior officers from the region to exchange views face-to-face," he added. Representatives from the United States and Russia, the two countries chairing the Middle East peace process, will also attend the symposium.

Police seize 102 kilos of heroin in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Police seized 102 kilograms of heroin at a border post Friday aboard a truck bound for Germany, a report said. The heroin was worth an estimated \$4.5 million. Anatolia news agency reported, Anatolia said police at a post on the Bulgarian border, acting on a tip, discovered the heroin among the cargo of a truck carrying textiles to Germany. A suspect was arrested on drug trafficking charges in the southern Mersin province on information provided by the truck driver, the report said.

Iraqi group claims Baghdad car-bomb

BEIRUT (R) — A newly-formed Iraqi Muslim fundamentalist group claimed responsibility on Friday for a car bomb attack in Baghdad earlier this week. The Iraqi Islamic Vanguard for National Salvation (IIVNS) said in a statement in Beirut the attack marked the start of a campaign to "get rid of the unjust regime." A car-bomb exploded on Monday near the headquarters of the official newspaper Al Jumhouriya, killing a child, wounding 13 civilians and slightly damaging the building. Baghdad accused the United States of being behind the blast. The group accused media organisations using the complex of "messing around with the thought of the people and the education of the oppressed masses as well as deceiving the public and international public opinions." The IIVNS, set up by Shiite Muslim clergymen close to Iran, announced earlier this month that it was formed with the aim of toppling the regime and establishing a democratic state.

Man killed when bomb explodes prematurely

ANKARA (AP) — A Kurdish man was killed Friday when a bomb he was trying to plant exploded prematurely in Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency reported. The report said the bomb exploded as the man was trying to set its timer in a house in the low-income Umraniye district. Police discovered a banner of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at the scene and detained three people, including the man's brother who owned the house, the report said. The PKK has claimed responsibility for some of the recent bombings that have rocked Istanbul.

Indian deputy minister visits Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — India's Deputy Foreign Minister Krisban Srinivasan met with Lebanese leaders here Friday for talks on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Srinivasan, who met Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, told reporters his country wanted to "strengthen cooperation ties with Lebanon." Foreign Ministry officials said Mr. Srinivasan also handed Mr. Bouez a message from Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh asking for Lebanese support in India's territorial dispute with Pakistan. The dispute is to be examined in the next session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins on Sept. 20. Mr. Srinivasan, who visited Damascus and Amman before arriving in Beirut, was to travel to Cairo on Saturday, officials said.

2 dead, 68 injured in Kabul rocket attack

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least two people were killed and 68 injured in a rocket attack on the Afghan capital of Kabul Friday, state-run Radio Kabul reported. The radio monitored here said that a barrage of 83 rockets slammed into the populated area of the city, causing heavy property losses. The radio, controlled by loyalists of embattled Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, blamed forces of rival leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his military ally from the north General Abdul Rashid Dostum for the attack.

Thai police not to charge two Saudis in gems theft case

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Thai police have decided not to pursue charges against two Saudi men in connection with the disappearance of part of the \$20 million in jewellery stolen from a Saudi prince in 1989, news reports said Saturday.

Police chief Pratin Rattanathorn told local reporters Friday there was not enough evidence to link the two Saudis to the case.

Thai police had sought permission from the Interior Ministry to arrest Saudi police Captain Saeed Alzai, who was sent here to help recover the gems, and an unidentified diplomat formerly attached to the Saudi embassy here.

But the ministry refused permission, saying it might damage relations with Saudi Arabia.

They were murdered, and Interior Minister Chaovalit Yongchayudh said there was "no doubt" that the deaths were linked to the gems case.

But police have since ruled the two died in a traffic accident.

"They were all killed because they had information about the jewellery," Mr. Khoja said.

Thai police said earlier this month they suspected Capt. Alzai was responsible for stealing the missing items.

It was the first time Saudi Arabia has publicly linked the murders with the jewellery theft.

Mr. Khoja, who directly accused Thai police of one of the killings, said he was due to discuss the issue with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai next week. "Frankly I am fed up and the government of Saudi Arabia cannot wait any longer," he said.

The bodies of the wife and teenage son of a key witness in the case were found earlier this month in a car north of Bangkok. Police first said

they were murdered, and Interior Minister Chaovalit Yongchayudh said there was "no doubt" that the deaths were linked to the gems case.

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Mr. Khoja dismissed the finding, saying the killers could have shot other embassy staff but had singled out the three because they had important information about the jewellery theft.

The three murdered

embassy staff — two diplomats and an embassy official — were gunned down on Bangkok streets in two separate incidents on the same day in February 1990, about two weeks after the Thai servant was arrested.

Thai police at first sus-

pected the three were mur-

dered over a conflict with drug traffickers, then sug-

gested they were killed due to a conflict over the export of fish to Saudi Arabia.

Police later suggested they were killed by Pakistani gangsters and finally con-

cluded they were murdered by international terrorists.

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Mr. Khoja said on Friday that Thai police had abducted and murdered Ruwayli, then burned his body, because he too had information about the missing jewellery.

A Thai policeman, Lieutenant-Colonel Somkid Boonthanon, was charged with Ruwayli's murder in 1993 but the case was later dismissed for lack of evi-

dence.

Saudi Arabia, angered by

lack of progress in the case, stopped issuing new visas to

Home News

IN BRIEF

sation in 'copter down' — The United States said compensation to the families killed in the April 14 British, Turkish and American incident. The family of \$20,000 by the U.S. government, which payment the pilot said in a report to the U.S. military personnel contributed to become.

ers to attend symposium will host a symposium in the Middle East for the first time. Andre Ouellet said Friday on joint search and rescue flights, "Canada is the first to advance," he added. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the United States and Russia to work together to end peace process."

os of heroin in Turkey seized 100 kilograms of heroin aboard a truck bound for the southern port of Mersin. A suspect was arrested. The truck driver, who was driving under the influence of alcohol, was released.

Baghdad car-bombing killed Iraqi officials, including the chief of the Salvation Army, and other senior officials. A spokesman for the coalition said that the attack was aimed at the headquarters of the coalition, killing a child, wounding the building, and being behind the blast.

formed Iraqi Angle, possibly on Friday. After this week, the Salutation (JNS) attack marked the start of the unjust regime." A spokesman for the coalition said that the attack was aimed at the headquarters of the coalition, killing a child, wounding the building, and being behind the blast.

Diplomats from several European countries were working through their own channels to solve the problem, the sources said.

The reports quoted the Saudi businesspersons as assuring the Jordanians that the self-styled inspection of Jordan-bound cargo at Jeddah port was not a policy of the Saudi government and that it was a "mistake" that would be corrected soon.

However, only 56 of nearly 500 Jordan-bound containers have been released in the past week, the sources said.

"It seems that there is no hard and fast decision that the Jordan-bound containers should be released immediately for transhipment to Abqaiq," said one source. "The port authorities at Jeddah are taking their own time, studying consignment by consignment, as if the sole objective is to give Jordanian importers as much trouble as possible."

"We don't believe they want to hold on to the cargo until the end of the year," said another source. "The reason is that the port authorities are trying to force the Jordanian importers to pay more for their goods."

Two people were killed in the explosion of a truck bomb in the northern city of Mosul, causing heavy losses. The driver of the truck, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was killed.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hisham Bouazza told reporters that the two men were killed in a car accident while driving to the airport for a flight to Lebanon. The spokesman for the United Nations on Sept. 20 said that the Jordanian delegation had been informed that the two men had been killed in a car accident.

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12TH GRADUATING CLASS: Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday graduated the 12th class of the Gordoba Community College in Zarqa. At the ceremony, Queen Noor, who is the honorary chairwoman of the college, distributed certificates to the 190 graduates. Established in 1981, Gordoba College was the first to be established as an intermediate community college for women. The college offers diplomas in 13 specializations ranging from business management and computer programming to sciences and fine arts. It also offers accommodation facilities.

for non-Jordanian students who wish to pursue their studies in the Kingdom. Furthermore, the college provides financial aid to needy students through a fund-raising social committee. The Queen, who was accompanied by Mrs. Noor Izzidine, was received upon arrival by Minister of Interior Saleh Hamad, who is a member of the college board of trustees, and Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud. Queen Noor was also received by the mayor of Zarqa, the dean of the Gordoba College and members of the board of trustees (Petra photo).

Saudi-held Jordan-bound cargo slowly being released—sources

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Signs are emerging that a large number of containers carrying Jordan-bound cargo stuck at Saudi Arabia's Jeddah port is being slowly released, but the flow is very slow, businesspersons and other sources said Saturday.

The sources were speaking against the backdrop of reports that senior Jordanian businesspersons were in touch, officially and unofficially, with their Saudi counterparts in the chamber of commerce and the chamber of industry seeking an explanation over why Jordan-bound cargo was being delayed and impeded at Jeddah.

Diplomats from several European countries were working through their own channels to solve the problem, the sources said.

The reports quoted the Saudi businesspersons as assuring the Jordanians that the self-styled inspection of Jordan-bound cargo at Jeddah port was not a policy of the Saudi government and that it was a "mistake" that would be corrected soon.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB loans JD7m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) approved 29 loans totalling JD7.085 million to local industrial, tourism and services schemes in the second quarter of 1994. Some of these loans will go to finance new projects including the manufacturing of wooden furniture, plastic products, spare parts for washing machines, tissue paper and metal furniture, as well as the establishment of dairies. An IDB statement said that the bank had granted a total of 68 loans totalling JD15.4 million since the start of 1994 com-

pared to 74 loans totalling JD13.6 million in the same period of 1993.

Brunei civil aviation team to arrive for talks

AMMAN — A delegation from the Brunei Civil Aviation Authority is due in Amman Sunday for talks with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials on air transport cooperation.

The head of the Jordanian team to the talks is CAA Director General Ahmad Jweibeh who said that the Brunei team will spend several days in Jordan.

These companies export a total of 75 per cent of their production to Arab and foreign markets and earn around JD50 million annually, he said.

The Cabinet, at its regular meeting Saturday, also raised the rate of exemptions from income tax on Jord-

anian services exported to other countries.

The statement said that the following services will be entirely exempt from income tax: computer, feasibility studies, legal, investment, engineering, accountancy and auditing services.

It said the decision was taken in light of the expected beneficial effects these services will have on the national economy.

The government will consider all elected municipal councils and municipal committees dissolved as of September 1, 1994, the date when the Municipalities Law expires.

The Cabinet has decided to form temporary municipal committees headed by public officials to run the affairs of the 191 municipalities for one year, after which general municipal elections will be conducted.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Thongnarin Hinndaw, agreed to the conversion of the ownership of Nadim Hospital in Madaba from the private sector to the Health Ministry and authorised the finance minister to sign the agreement.

The Cabinet also decided to appoint Hashem Shabot as secretary general of Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), to succeed Abdul Aziz Wishah who has been transferred to the prime minister's office serving as an advisor.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

Film entitled "The Rocketeer" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Middle Eastern System" by Mr. Farid Abdul Karim at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jaffa at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Iraqi poet Dhuayyat Al-Mikaili at the Association of Jordanian Writers at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Saadat Zarrar at Arat Al Fima in Umm Uthaim (Tel. 826932).

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jaffa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Exhibition of paintings by Fahmi Qaysi at Ab'd Art Gallery (Tel. 819861).

Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nahla and International Yass Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

Children's school needs exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 noon-11:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wajida Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Amman (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).

Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfah Art Gallery in Umm Uthaim (Tel. 826932).

Professional groups team to head for Iraq with aid

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing nine Jordanian professional associations heads for Baghdad Monday with a modest shipment of medicines for a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people in the face of the U.N.-imposed sanctions, according to Kamal Nasser, president of the Jordan Bar Association (JBA), who is leading the group.

"We are making the trip because of our belief in and demand for an end to the embargo now that Iraq has complied with all the U.N. Security Council requirements," said Dr. Nasser.

During the several day visit to Iraq, the delegation members will meet with heads of Iraqi professional associations, representatives of

other organisations and senior officials to renew the Jordanian associations' support for Iraq, said Dr. Nasser in a statement Saturday.

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Norwegian firm wins \$70m contract to link Aqaba-Taba power grids

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has awarded two contracts related to linking the national power grid of the Kingdom with that of Egypt, JEA Director-General Mohammad Arafa said Saturday.

Mr. Arafa said a \$70 million contract to lay 10 kilometres of submarine cable linking the power grid at Aqaba with the Egyptian network at Taba was given to a Norwegian company and another contractor for 10 kilometres of overhead cable was granted to a Turkish company.

Work on the linkage is expected to be completed in the first half of 1997, when the linkage among Middle Eastern networks would take a major leap," Mr. Arafa told the Jordan Times.

Other sources identified the Norwegian company as Al Catel Kahle Norge and the Turkish company as Sezai-Turkes Feyzeli.

The Jordan-Egypt link is expected to cost about \$100 million and is partly financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development under an

Akkaya.

The Turkish company's contract was worth \$15.5 million and limited to the civil works and towers, the sources said.

Japan's Itochu Corporation will supply the insulated wire for the overhead cabling and Austria's Berndorf-FAS will supply conductors. The cost of these components was not immediately known.

The contract for Al Catel was a Turkey project under which the company undertook the work related to the submarine cable.

Cuba holds door open for talks on refugee crisis with U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States clamped new economic sanctions on Cuba and prepared to convert its naval base on the island into a sprawling detention camp as Havana held open the door for talks aimed at resolving its refugee crisis.

Rough weather and heavy seas cut the number of Cuban boat people in the wind-whipped Florida Straits Friday. Only 414 were picked up between midnight Thursday (0400 GMT Friday) and Friday evening compared to more than 3,000 on a single day earlier in the week, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

But the number was expected to soar once the weather cleared, and the U.S. military ordered more than 2,000 civilians to evacuate its naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to make room for a tent city capable of holding up to 60,000 refugees.

Cuba repeated its willingness to negotiate with the United States on the boat people crisis, even if talks were initially only on immigration issues — the only point president Bill Clinton has said Washington is willing to discuss with Havana.

Foreign Minister Roberto Roaibana told a news conference during a visit to Bolivia Friday that Havana "wouldn't refuse" if the United States wanted to discuss immigration without bringing in other issues.

Mr. Roaibana was quoted earlier by the Cuban news

agency Prensa Latina as saying that while Cuba believed a solution lay in broader discussions, Havana did not object to starting with the immigration issue.

Mr. Clinton has rebuffed President Fidel Castro's position that the exodus of Cubans in the last few weeks has been caused by wider U.S. policy decisions toward Cuba, including its long-standing economic embargo.

Mr. Castro indicated Wednesday that while a real solution to the problem would be a general overhaul of U.S. policy toward Cuba, Havana would not object to starting with talks on immigration issues.

Senior Clinton administration officials were quoted in Saturday's editions of the Los Angeles Times as saying that formal U.S.-Cuba negotiations were still far from certain.

But they said the two sides were discussing the prospect and could come to a decision within the next few days.

The U.S. Treasury Department activated a presidential order Friday stopping Cuban-Americans from sending cash to their relatives in Cuba.

Officials planned to watch banks and shops specializing in wiring money to Cuba in Miami's Little Havana to enforce the order.

The United States also moved to curtail charter flights to the island. Officials estimate Cuban Americans send about \$50 million a year to Cuba and travel adds

another \$100 million.

Mr. Clinton ordered the stepped up sanctions to punish Mr. Castro for failing to halt the exodus of Cuban boat people to the United States.

U.S. officials say a halt in remittances could deprive the cash-starved Cuban economy of as much as \$500 million a year.

Last week, Mr. Clinton

also reversed a 28-year-old

policy of automatically re-

ceiving all Cubans who

sought asylum, saying boat

people would be turned away

from the United States and

held at Guantanamo indefi-

nately.

U.S. officials said more

than 11,000 Cubans were

already at Guantanamo Fri-

day or on ships waiting to be

unloaded there. About

14,500 Haitian refugees

were also being held at the base.

Admiral Henry Mauz,

commander in chief of the

U.S. Atlantic Fleet, issued

the order to evacuate ci-

vilians from Guantanamo late

Friday, military officials told

a group of Defence Depart-

ment pool reporters.

Navy officials said 2,236

family members of military,

civilian and contract workers

would be evacuated by air

beginning Wednesday.

More would leave later if

refugees continued to pour

into the base on the eastern

tip of Cuba which the U.S.

has maintained since the early

1990s, the officials said.

Nearly 17,000 Cuban refu-

gees have been plucked from small fishing boats and

attempting to cross the Florida Straits

inflatable boat after being rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard ship Grand Isle. The number of photo)



An exhausted Cuban refugee rests in an inflatable boat after being rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard ship Grand Isle. The number of photo)

Mahathir tells Murayama to step up aid instead of apologising

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP)

— Japanese Premier Tomiochi Murayama was told

by his Malaysian host Saturday to stop apologizing for his country's war crimes and show remorse by expanding aid to South East Asia, a Japanese spokesman said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, during 145 minutes of talks with Mr. Murayama, also pledged to back Japan's entry into the U.N. Security Council to enable Tokyo play a more active role in maintaining Asian peace, stability and prosperity.

"Mahathir could not

understand why Japan keeps

on apologising and apologis-

ing for its wartime crimes

committed almost 50 years

ago," Japanese government

spokesman Kishichiro Amae

told journalists after the

talks.

"He said it was more impor-

tant to take lessons from

the past and build on the

future," he added.

Mr. Mahathir told Mr. Murayama he would not en-

courage Malaysians to ask

Japan for compensation for

crimes committed almost half

a century ago, when Kuala

Lumpur had not even

thought of asking redress

from its former British colo-

nial rulers.

"Mr. Murayama had no

time to respond to Mahathir's

remarks as he was rushing off

to have an audience with

Malaysia's King" Tuanku Ja'afar Abdul Rahman, said

Mr. Amae.

Mr. Murayama flew in late

Friday with a 30-member dele-

gation for a three-day visit

on the third leg of an eight-

day tour of four South East

Asian countries, with Japan's

World War II aggression

overshadowing the tour.

He earlier visited the Phi-

ippines and Vietnam, and was

to leave here for Singap-

ore early Sunday.

While in the Philippines,

where women forced to work

as sex slaves for Japanese

troops demanded compensation, Mr. Murayama vowed to tell Japanese youth the

truth about the war.

In Vietnam, Mr. Murayama expressed re-

morse for wartime atrocities

and colonial rule to Prime

Minister Vo Van Kiet, who

had "closed the door on the past"

and now wanted to develop

better relations with Japan.

Japan invaded Malaysia

through Thailand, then Siam,

in December 1941 and advanced

down the peninsula, capturing

the fortress of Singapore

some three months later.

The civilian death toll

while Japan overran vast

areas of Asia is estimated at

up to two million in Indochina, 1.1 million in the Philip-

pines and about 50,000 in

Malaysia and Singapore, according to Japanese scholars.

Museum buys painting by Dutch master

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Mauritshuis

Museum has spent 1.4 million

guilders (\$809,248) to buy a

painting by the 17th century

Dutch master Nicolaes Maes,

a museum spokesman said.

Museum director Frits Duparc said the painting, "an old lace maker," is a characteristic composition by Maes,

who was a student of the famous Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn. Maes, 1634-1693, initially followed Rembrandt's lead by painting biblical stories, but later discovered his own talent for depicting domestic scenes and portraits, which became his specialty.

Tony Curtis files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Tony Curtis has filed

for divorce from his fourth

wife, citing irreconcilable dif-

ferences. There was no provi-

sion for alimony in the papers, filed in

Los Angeles County Superior

Court. There also was no

mention of a division of prop-

erty. Curtis, 69, and Lisa

Deutsch Curtis, 32, were wed

Feb. 28, 1993. They shared a

Los Angeles home and have

no children, said publicist

Jennifer Walsh. Curtis star-

red in more than 100 films

including "Some Like It Hot."

Earlier this year, Curtis

underwent heart bypass

surgery and lost the son he

had with his third wife, ex-

model Leslie Allen. Curtis

has five other grown chil-

dren, including actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the daughter of Janet Leigh.

Bolling July boosts beer to heady levels

WIESBADEN, Germany (AP) — Germans, already

among the world's most en-

thusiastic beer drinkers, out-

did themselves during the

July heat wave, the very so-

ber Federal Statistics Office

in Wiesbaden reported. It

said sales of German beer

jumped by 10.9 per cent last

month from the year-earlier

World News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1994 5

Mother reunites
with daughter
18 years later

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The only Danish word Yassin remembered, "Mor," or mom, his father abducted her from Denmark. Nanna Yassin, mother, Joyce Falkenberg, 43, never met her daughter during a weekend since her father abducted her to Kharoum, Sudan, in 1976, using a forged passport. Falkenberg, 43, never said from her daughter after child to his wealthy family, lived under the thumb of his father's family until she died last year and moved to Saudi Arabia with her husband. Through the English embassy there, she located her mother, Yassin, in-law in July from a photo booth in Saudi Arabia, introducing himself in English, passing the phone. Yassin: "For many years, I was in despair and many times in my sleep," Falkenberg said. "You can't describe how good it is to be united again." The couple intend to settle in Denmark, where Foreign Ministry has already given Yassin a Danish passport, the newspaper said.

Museum buys
painting by
Dutch master

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Mauritshuis museum has spent 1.4 million dollars (\$304,248) for buying by the 17th century Dutch master Nicolas de Bruyn a painting of a landscape composition by him that was a student of famous Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn. In 1693, initially following Rembrandt's lead by painting domestic scenes, he later turned his own talent to creating portraits, which became his specialty.

My Curtiss
is for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tony Curtis, his fourth wife from his long-standing irreconcilable differences, there was no provision for alimony for one of the papers, filed Angeles County Superior Court. There was also a provision of a division of property. Curtis, 54, and his wife, Leslie Allen, Curtis' other grown children, including actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the daughter of Leigh.

ng July
ts beer to
y levels

ADEN, Germany (AP) — Germans, about the world's most beer drinkers, themselves during the war, the very general Statistics Office had reported, a sales of German beer by 10.9 per cent less than the year earlier. On the year earlier, a heady 11.2 per cent up 1.1 per cent. July last year, to surprise, 20.2 per cent sales were made in

A: Body
ails animal
criticism

(AP) — British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) will release hoppers to take them from the body of animals with "higher standards," said the chairman Saturday. The chairman introduced a tougher guide to testing, although it has campaigned against testing.

Bosnian Serbs vote on peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs streamed to makeshift polling stations Saturday to begin voting in a two-day referendum expected to confirm their leaders' steadfast rejection of the latest peace plan for their warring country.

The first ballot papers were posted shortly after 0700 (0500 GMT) in a poll demanded by the Bosnian Serbs' former patrons in Belgrade as a farce which will confirm Bosnia's Serbs as isolated and friendless.

The vote was called to back the repeated rejection by the Bosnian Serb leadership of a big power plan that would end the war by dividing the country roughly in half between the Serbs and a neutral Bosnia and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Bosnia's Serbs, a third of the pre-war population and now on 70 per cent of the territory, object to giving up land their superior machine won from Muslim foes and say the plan would leave their territories divided, weak and indefensible.

Defying denunciation and blockade by Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic and pressure from Russia and the West, they have gone ahead with the poll, demanding the maps of division be redrawn.

Bosnian Serbs already face

higher food prices after Mr. Milosevic shut his borders with Bosnia, angered by defiance by Mr. Karadzic and others and anxious to avoid further sanctions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is due in Belgrade Sunday to press Mr. Milosevic to allow international monitoring of the Bosnian blockade and is thought to offer to ease sanctions on rump Yugoslavia as a reward for cooperation.

Electoral organisers say a million people will vote in 82 polling stations across the country, but independent observers suggest only 750,000 people live in Serb-dominated Bosnia, nearly half of whom are below voting age.

Two years of ethnic war and consequent population movement have left voting lists meaningless. In trenches above Sarajevo groups of soldiers voted by roll-call, by secret ballot, and gave a unanimous voice for rejection.

On the morning of the poll Bosnian Serb leader continued to press their defiant argument on Serb television, the only source of information for most of their people.

"If people decide to accept the map, then it would spell capitulation," said the speaker of the Bosnia Serb Assembly Momcilo Krajišnik. "I believe people will reject it almost unanimously and are aware they will face suffering."

Warnings from the United Nations and European governments of the repercussions of the U.S. move to help equip the lightly armed Bosnian army have increased. Many countries, afraid of a new explosion of



Refugees, U.N. soldiers and Croatian police gather at the border crossing between Bosnia and Croatia at Turanj village, where several thousand refugees from western Bosnia wait to cross the Croatian border (AFP photo).

he's doing. Maybe he's trying to suck up to the West," Ms. Uskovic said.

Mr. Milosevic's sudden

break with Bosnian Serb leaders has left people confused, as they wish no harm to Serbs in Bosnia but yearn for an end to sanctions that have caused their living standard to plummet.

Rwanda leaders intensify reconciliation efforts

KIGALI (R) — Leaders of Rwanda's new government visited the south Saturday to try to persuade Hutus and Tutsis they could live together again despite the horrific bloodshed of recent months.

President Pasteur Bizimungu, defence chief Major-General Paul Kagame, Prime Minister Faustin Twagirayange and other government officials visited Butare city and surrounding areas to reassure people they were committed to peace.

"They preached a message of reconciliation and ethnic harmony. They preached a gospel of forgiveness and tolerance," but they also pledged punishment for those who have caused so much trouble for ordinary Rwandans," a senior official told Reuters in the capital Kigali.

Mr. Bizimungu urged Rwandan intellectuals to travel to a zone previously under French military protection to convince refugees to return to their homes and start farming again.

Government leaders hope that a reconciliation mission by intellectuals will swell the number of returns.

The Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government won power after a three-month offensive during which soldiers and militiamen of the Hutu regime carried out a campaign of genocide mainly targeting Tutsis. U.N. officials estimate up to one million people may have been killed.

At least two million refugees fled over the borders into Zaire and other neighbouring countries, said Walsh. Curtis said more than 100,000 fled "Some Like It Hot" this year. Curtis went heartbroken and lost the son of his third wife, Leslie Allen. Curtis' other grown children, including actress Jamie Lee Curtis, the daughter of Leigh.

A Rwandan refugee, armed with a machete, walks past a boy carrying firewood at the Mugunga camp, west of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo).



A French nurse from the humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières comforts a Rwandan girl at the Mugunga refugee camp, west of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo).

refugees even worse, was becoming the latest killer to stalk the squalid camps, they added.

Mr. Wilkinson said the death toll of 300 a day was twice that in refugee camps set up after a similar exodus from Cambodia in 1979 after a Vietnamese invasion ousted the Khmer Rouge.

At the height of last month's cholera epidemic, several thousand people were dying each day. With clean

water and medical facilities now available, cholera is under control and the rate has fallen among the 800,000 refugees around the town.

But aid workers say drug-resistant dysentery is still killing people.

Since the start of the mass exodus into eastern Zaire in mid-July, an estimated 46,000 people have died.

In Kigali Saturday, a U.N. military spokesman said the first 115 Zambian reinforcements for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda had arrived in the capital.

The Zambians will take over in the former French protection zone from the Ghanaian troops now stationed there.

Rwanda's former government, accused of carrying out a campaign of genocide before its defeat by rebel forces, has regrouped and is training at a camp in the new prime minister's home town of Tirana, accused of fomenting separation in the south where most of the country's ethnic Greeks live.

Greece accuses Tirana of mistreating its Greek minority.

An estimated 350,000 Albanians work in Greece, earning cash for families scraping by in Europe's poorest country.

Despite regular, but smaller expulsions, the number of illegal Albanians in Greece remains unchanged as most of those expelled return, usually along mountain tracks across the border which are difficult to police.

"Hundreds continue to cross the border and we can do nothing to them. They come back after some days, worn out but still thinking of going back again," one border official said.

UNITA is also widely believed to operate in conjunction with one or more of the FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda) factions inside Cabinda.

UNITA has been fighting a bush war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) since independence from Portugal in 1975.

The Luanda daily said heavy fighting was also re-

Expelled Albanians swamp border town

KAKAVIA, Albania (R) — Albanian authorities Saturday used military trucks and private buses to take home thousands of Albanian immigrants expelled from Greece.

The Albanian government said Greece has deported 22,000 illegal Albanian immigrants since Aug. 15 in retaliation for the trial in Tirana of five ethnic Greek Albanians accused of spying for Athens.

Some 5,200 crossed the border from Greece on Friday alone.

"We mobilised trucks from a nearby military unit and used private buses to deal with the unusual influx of immigrants," border station chief Pelivan Buzheri told Reuters.

In the latest report on the alleged relationship between Carlos and his lawyer, Le Parisien said the international guerrilla hoped Barbie would disclose embarrassing information about relations between Western governments and former Nazis.

It said East German secret services strongly opposed the plan and it was dropped.

The flow eased later Saturday with only some 200 people arriving at the border town of Gjirokastra, 300 kilometres south of Tirana, was swamped by more than 3,400 Albanians Friday. Most were on their way to their home town by Saturday afternoon.

Some of the immigrants spoke of abuse by Greek police and one man said they had confiscated the shoes of all the people on his bus travelling to the Albanian border.

Policemen caught six of us for deportation but they did not harm us," Napoone Tice, 38, said on arriving at Kakavija. "All they said was 'go back and kill' (Albanian President Sali) Berisha and then you can come here again."

The deportations were the biggest since July last year when a quarrel between the two Balkan neighbours erupted over Albania's expulsion of a Greek whom Tirana accused of fomenting separation in the south where most of the country's ethnic Greeks live.

"If France can produce 80 per cent of its electricity from nuclear energy why cannot Pakistan also consider exploiting this renewable source of energy?" he said at a solar energy workshop.

Pakistan imports two-thirds of its oil needs and its electricity output is about 2,000 megawatts less than demand.

"I think it is an unfortunate statement because it is not based on reality," he said.

Mr. Leghari said Islamic countries should pool resources for research into renewable energy sources because technology embargoes imposed by the West were "going to get worse."

Pakistani commentators have voiced fears that the

Malaysia police crack down on Al Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police have arrested 13 suspected members of the banned Islamic Al Arqam sect since the government declared the group a danger to public order, the state news agency Bernama reported Saturday.

The Home Affairs Ministry declared the movement unlawful Friday, clearing the way for police to act against the sect's estimated 10,000 hard-core followers in Malaysia.

Five Al Arqam followers were arrested Friday in a Kuala Lumpur suburb as

Meanwhile four In-

a 1982 car-bomb attack in Paris.

Since then, the French press has published a stream of reports based on files of the former East German secret police Stasi alleging that Mr. Verge had been a member of the Carlos' group in the early 1980s.

Mr. Verge was not immediately available for comment on the report of Le Parisien. He had earlier dismissed the Stasi files as lacking any credibility and said allegations against him were aimed at forcing him to drop Carlos' defence.

The Venezuelan-born expert of a letter in English purportedly sent to Carlos in 1983 by his deputy Johannes Weinrich and found in Stasi files. "The Barbie affair is very interesting," the letter

said.

The newspaper said Carlos wanted Mr. Verge, mentioned under the codenames "Herzog" and "Galvao," to provide information on how on in the central city of Lyon.

"As Carlos explains in instructions to Weinrich, the idea is to abduct and question Barbie ... his disclosures, cleverly publicised, will compromise Western regimes and denounce their relationship with war criminals," Le Parisien said.

A former Nazi Gestapo chief in Lyon, Barbie was handed over to France by Bolivia in 1983. Mr. Verge defended him at his 1987 trial. Barbie was given a life sentence for crimes against humanity and died in prison in 1991.

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

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Partner in future role

THE ONE-day state visit of Turkish President Suleiman Demirel to Jordan acquires an added significance in light of the progress on the peace front between the Arabs and Israel.

His Majesty the King and the Turkish leader will no doubt discuss the Washington Declaration and the latest developments in the peace process, and will share thoughts on the shape of the future in the region. Turkey is a very important regional power not only in geopolitical terms but also in economic terms. Suffice it to recall that the solutions of the deep water problems in the area cannot be expected to be reached without Turkey's participation and contribution. The kind of economic growth that is projected to materialise in the Middle East would no doubt involve Turkey as well.

On the bilateral level, Amman and Ankara have always enjoyed the best of relations. His Majesty King Hussein had paid several state visits to Turkey to cement these growing relations, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been as keen to build on what has already been achieved. We in Jordan continue to view Turkey as a key regional power that has a pivotal role to play in consolidating stability and security in this part of the world. The geographic proximity of Turkey to both the Arab World and Europe makes it an important bridge for greater links between this region and Europe.

All these happy developments in the Turkish-Jordanian relations do not prosper in a vacuum but rather in the rich common religious and cultural traditions that bind the Turkish and Arab peoples as a whole. On the political front, Turkey has steadfastly defended Arab rights within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is, hopefully, being resolved once and for all. With regard to Iraq, Ankara has been in the forefront of the countries that are calling for relaxing the sanctions on that beleaguered Arab Gulf state in a bid to normalise international and regional relations with it. The full stability of the region cannot be expected to be attained in isolation from Baghdad.

Turkey is opening some doors in that direction and it deserves to be commended for this initiative.

Much more can of course be done to make the regional story a real success. For now, however, we are both confident and hopeful that the visit of the Turkish president, and the Crown Prince's visit to Turkey, will be two important links in the chain to achieve that success.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE end of the naval blockade on Aqaba and the interception of Aqaba-bound ships, Jordan feels like a nightmare had ended. Indeed said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday, the Jordanian people felt that the siege on their port, which has been in place since August 1990, was meant as a tool to punish them for their nationalism and principled stand vis-a-vis foreign intervention in Arab affairs, the paper said. It said the siege that cost the country a fortune was used as to exercise pressure on the Kingdom and force it to change its stand and accept foreign military intervention in Arab affairs. The siege was a penalty that Jordan had to pay for being supportive of the Iraqi brothers in the face of aggression and for the Kingdom's condemnation of this aggression and its sympathy with the Iraqi people, added the paper. Lifting the siege on Aqaba, said the paper, is a national achievement which would not be complete before the end of the U.N.-imposed embargo on the Iraqi people.

THE INFLUX of Cuban refugees to the United States has placed Washington face-to-face with a new crisis for which it has no solution, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Washington's siege of Cuba and its sanctions against Haiti, North Korea, Libya and Iraq has achieved nothing except more hatred for the Clinton administration and more problems for the American people, said Farid Al-Sarweh. The embargo on Iraq, which Washington insists on maintaining, has not given the Kuwaitis any sense of security nor has it relieved the Turks from their financial burdens. But it has definitely caused damage to the economies of Europe, Jordan and the Palestinians, added the writer. By opening the door for the Cubans to emigrate Fidel Castro has swamped the United States with unwanted Cubans, said the writer. He said that American policy of starving nations and imposing sanctions against regimes has clearly failed to achieve any fruitful result.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

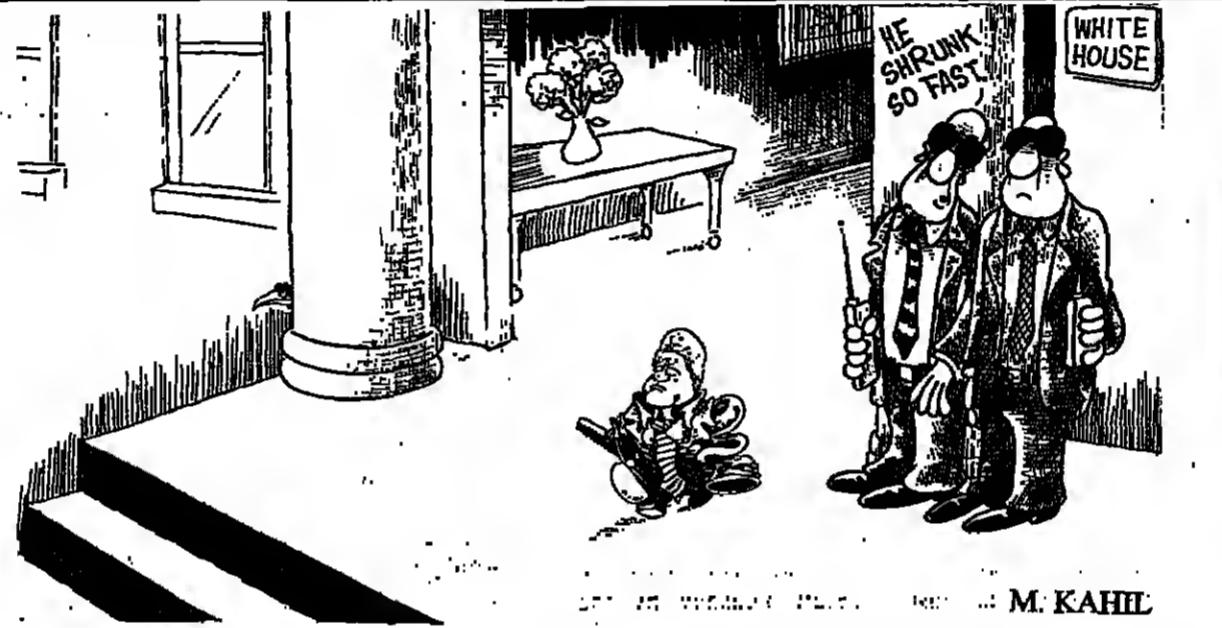
Measuring the pulse of the people

ACCORDING TO a public opinion survey conducted between Aug. 18-20 by the Centre for Strategic Studies in the University of Jordan, some 80.2 per cent of the Jordanians were found to support the peace process in general and the Washington Declaration in particular. Around three quarters of the population believe that Jordan will recover through peace all its rights in land, water, security and refugees. 82.5 per cent expect the economy to improve considerably.

At the outset, I should declare my full confidence in the public opinion surveys conducted from time to time by the Centre for Strategic Studies. Those surveys are perfectly scientific. The purpose behind them is to find out the facts and help the decision makers see the situation as it is. The centre has never used surveys to influence public opinion instead of just testing the water and measuring the pulse of the people.

Of course, the Centre for Strategic Studies can publish a pre-cooked survey, but if it does, it can cheat us only once and then lose its credibility forever. Credibility is the essence of the centre, without which it will lose justification for its very existence. We know for sure that the Centre's Director Mustafa Hamarneh would risk his head rather than risking his own credibility or that of the centre. Therefore we read the survey with respect and trust.

If there is a question mark that is worth looking at, it is the idea that the positive results arrived at by the survey may have been the reason why the survey findings were made public. There is a real doubt that, in the opposite direction, the whole survey may be kept in confidence and not released to the public. To close this possible gap, it is recommended that the centre should announce in advance that it is going to make a public opinion survey. This announcement should serve as an implied commitment to reveal the findings of the survey, no matter whether they were favourable or otherwise, from the government view point.



Nationalists emerge from shadows in Romania

By Peter Bale

Reuter

BUCHAREST — The sleeping dogs of nationalism have awoken in Romania to claim a pivotal role in keeping the old communist elite in power in the last East European state where Stalinism's heritage still lingers.

Members of the Xenophobic anti-Hungarian RNUP party took two cabinet posts last week in a reshuffle which exposed how reliant on nationalism support the Party of Social Democracy (PSD) government of Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu is.

It was the first time that

RNUP candidates had officially been given seats at the cabinet table, something Western envoys had warned Mr. Vacaroiu's minority government against.

Now anti-Semites want a place in government, and opposition parties fear Romania could be sliding into extremism.

"We want to stress the negative consequences of this aberrant symbiosis be-

tween a party which calls itself democrat and a party which the international community has called fascist," said Cornelius Coposu of the National Peasant Party.

Romanian National Unity Party candidates took the farm and communications ministries — crucial to market reforms that should repair the damage wrought by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

It was the first time that RNUP candidates had officially been given seats at the cabinet table, something Western envoys had warned Mr. Vacaroiu's minority government against.

With just 34 per cent of the seats in Romania's fragmented parliament and facing an increasingly stronger opposition bloc, Mr. Vacaroiu has needed the eight per cent of seats held by the RNUP to survive a handful of no-confidence motions.

Analysts fear the greater influence of the nationalists threatens Romania's delicate ethnic fabric. While Romania is far from becoming another Bosnia, it has its flashpoints.

"The risk is that this will increase the fears of the Hungarian minority that they face an onslaught against their cultural and educational rights," said one Western analyst.

"This can only radicalise Hungarian militants."

Despite its new-found status, after several years on the fringe of Romanian politics, the RNUP nationalists insisted they were not dancing for joy at the cabinet posts.

"We did not drink champagne," said RNUP deputy leader and senate vice chairman Ion Gavra. "There is nothing to celebrate. This is a difficult step which means hard work."

In the past the RNUP has

only flexed its muscles by sniping at the Hungarians in Transylvania's city of Cluj where party boss Gheorghe Funar has suppressed the Hungarian language.

European envoy Max Van der Stoel, high commissioner for minority rights from the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), last week warned that "extremists" put at risk decades of peaceful coexistence in Transylvania.

Horia Rusu, executive president of the 1993 Liberal Party, saw grave risks in the RNUP's influence in government.

"Accepting a chauvinist party in government will in the long term compromise the chances for an historic reconciliation between Romania and Hungary," Mr. Rusu said.

"There is a risk Romania will be isolated more deeply."

Saudi satellite battle is another AWACS affair

The writer directs research on security and arms control at Israel's DESA Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

By Gerald M. Steinberg

SAUDI ARABIA's effort to gain access to a highly accurate photo-satellite from the United States may trigger a conflict reminiscent of the 1981 AWACS affair. As in the case of the AWACS, the satellite project involves hundreds of millions of dollars, very sophisticated technology and the potential for major damage to Israel's national security.

The process began in early 1994, when the U.S. government approved a request to license the sale of remote-sensing satellite services and technology. For many years the costs of these systems, such as LADNSAT, grew, while competition from the French SPOT satellite, as well as Russian systems, cut revenues. The U.S. decided to privatise the develop-

ment and operation of these satellites. Three firms, Litton-Itek, G.D.E., and Orbital Sciences, formed a consortium to build the EYEGLASS satellite.

After beginning project development, this consortium found that the market was very limited. The Saudis decided to buy an equity stake, and the firms that are involved, as well as the U.S. Commerce Department, have an intense economic interest in keeping the Saudis in the project.

For Israel, the key issue is the potential strategic impact. With EYEGLASS, objects as small as one metre can be identified. (In comparison, the LANDSAT has a resolution about 30 square metres).

Although theoretically designed for civilian purposes, EYEGLASS will pick out and monitor planes parked on a runway, tanks, trucks, missiles, etc. It will also be able to monitor construction projects and traffic into and out of buildings. This will give the Saudi army, and other Arab military forces that will have access to the data, the ability

to assess Israeli strengths and weaknesses, and to plan a precision first strike against bases, plants and other facilities.

Defenders of the sale claim that the field of view of this satellite can be restricted through electronic "shutter control," but this is quite difficult, given the geography.

For many years, the Israeli army and Defence Ministry have sought to acquire an orbital capability to monitor activities in Iran and Iraq. The importance of an independent overhead reconnaissance capability was emphasised during the 1991 Gulf war, when Israel realised that the U.S. had almost no information on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, and had failed to locate mobile SCUD missile launchers. After the war, Defence Minister Moshe Arens revealed the Ofek programme was designed to produce a reconnaissance satellite.

Although two test platforms have been launched successfully, an operational satellite will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and will require a major tech-

nological effort. According to reports, Israeli requests for American assistance and technology, or for cooperation in this area, have all been rebuffed.

The Israeli government can also be expected to note that in making the technology available to the Saudis, the U.S. government is violating pledges not to sell weapons or technology more advanced than that available to Israel. This pledge, which goes back to the era of Nixon and Kissinger, was recently reiterated by U.S. President Clinton in meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

In the AWACS case, the sale was eventually approved in a very narrow vote in the U.S. Senate, but only after a costly fight. Now, in the middle of the Middle East peace process, and with no other foreign policy successes, the Clinton administration cannot afford a similar battle. Unless Israel is convinced that the Saudi role in the EYEGLASS project will not pose a threat to its security, the conflict is likely to escalate.

Elections mark turning point in Mexico

By Peter Bale

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Sunday's election marked a turning point for Mexico's politics, according to United States analysts who see the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on a firm course to democratisation.

However, Monday the U.S. government and most specialists held back from giving the election a clean bill, citing reports of irregularities especially in rural areas.

"Politics in Mexico will

be different in the future.

(PRI's presidential candidate)

Ernesto Zedillo

will not be as

powerful as his

predecessors,"

said former

assistant

secretary

for inter-American

affairs

Bernard

Aronson.

more munition," said the Mexico specialist.

Mr. Clinton obtained congressional approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, overcoming opposition in his own Democracy Party to Mexico's inclusion in the pact.

Regarding the vote, economist William Cline said PRI's strong showing suggested Mexicans had preferred stability over change. "Basically voters looked back at the last six years and decided that the economy had been better managed than in the past," added Mr. Cline, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics.

Under Mr. Salinas Mexico attracted record levels for foreign investment and attained enough stability to join the OECD group of the world's most developed countries.

The victory of the bookish Zedillo, a Yale-trained economist, also heralds a strong continuity of Mr. Salinas' market-oriented policies, said Mr. Cline.

"Politics in Mexico will be different in the future. (PRI's presidential candidate) Ernesto Zedillo will not be as powerful as his predecessors" — former assistant secretary for inter-American affairs Bernard Aronson.

"There will be a greater emphasis on social spending that the basics of Salinas' approach will remain — balanced budgets, free trade and opening of certain sectors where foreign investment was restricted," he said.

Mark Falcoff, a Latin America analyst with the American Enterprise Institute who travelled to Mexico to observe the poll, said that some incidents of foul play took place Sunday but not in the scale of voting rigging of the 1988 election.

In that occasion PRI's Salinas emerged victorious after a mysterious breakdown in the ballot-tallying computer system.

"The process was generally acceptable. The opposition will continue to criticise the run-up to the election, and they certainly have a point on the issue of equal access to television," said Mr. Falcoff.

However, in the second quarter a substantial increase in public spending helped propel economic growth to a 3.8 per cent rate, against a 1.3 per cent decrease for all of 1993.

"Widespread voting could also cause problems for the Clinton administration, as it would give U.S. critics of NAFTA a chance," Mr. Falcoff said.

To the Editor:

E.A. Yaghbi's column, "Someplace called home" (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26) is a gross misrepresentation of the truth. In particular, her comments concerning the librarian at the American Cultural Centre are insensitive, totally unwarranted and quite possibly defamatory. I have known the said librarian for close to 20 years and she has always been the epitome of professionalism and efficiency. She is unsparing in her pursuit of facts, large or small, and completely scrupulous in her professional duties. Moreover, contrary to Ms. Yaghbi, she speaks English with great fluency and panache. Perhaps Ms. Yaghbi should do herself a favour and reexamine the tirade. In so doing, she might find that she has unwittingly impugned the character and accomplishments of a fine person, and a competent professional besides.

Hala Fattah,
Amman.

Features

Algeria closes border with Morocco in row

(Continued from page 1)

The two countries, which have a history of strained relations, abolished visas after forming the five-country Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in 1989 which links Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia. The Algerian Foreign Ministry said the visa requirement was a violation of the AMU treaty.

Two Spanish tourists were killed and two persons wounded on Wednesday when three hooded gunmen sprayed the lobby of the Atlas Asni hotel in Marrakesh with automatic weapons fire before making off with 10,000 dirhams (\$1,130) in cash.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said two men arrested with "war weapons" in the central city of Fez were part of a mainly Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence of the former Spanish colony

claimed by Morocco.

Earlier this month three unidentified gunmen tried to hijack an armoured vehicle which was carrying funds to a bank in Casablanca but they were foiled by the guards and escaped.

Morocco's Interior Ministry said entry visas would in future be required of all visitors of Algerian nationality or origin. Those already in the country must report to the police as soon as possible to regularise their situation.

There was no hint in the Moroccan statement that the arrested gunmen were linked to Algeria's Muslim radicals.

"They appear to be just gangsters based in Europe who think Morocco is a soft target," one diplomat said.

The 1989 signing of the AMU treaty in Marrakesh ended 13 years of hostility caused by the war in Western Sahara where Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting for independence of the former Spanish colony

2 Israelis killed; Hamas claims responsibility

(Continued from page 1)

arrests on Saturday after the Tel Aviv attack.

Israel's police chief, Assaf Hefetz, called for Israel to show restraint and said employers were often to blame for such attacks because they took on cheap Palestinian labour without work permits.

Dozen of Palestinians without work permits were rounded up Saturday in the Ramle area where the bodies were found, Mr. Hefetz said.

Police also sent reinforcements to Ramle, which has a large Israeli Arab community, to prevent retaliatory attacks.

The two Israelis, aged 22 and 24, had gone missing after working to install a lift, and their bodies were discovered late Friday by colleagues after a search.

A slogan of Hamas was found scrawled on a packet of cigarettes nearby.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, condemning the attack as "very serious," said the answer was to help the economy of the autonomous Gaza Strip to lower the number of Palestinians seeking work in Israel.

"There were those who believe we can shoot at Hamas with cannons or with guns and be done with them. We tried that route for many

years with partial results," he told army radio. "In my opinion the way to liquidate terrorism is by getting rid of the reasons for it, political and economic."

Zakaria Al Agha, housing minister for the Palestinian self-rule government, issued a soft condemnation, saying "we are committed to our agreement with Israel. We are against anything that violates the agreement."

Israel has pledged to help the cash-starved PLO seek funding for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Tens of thousands of Gazans work in mostly menial jobs in Israel because of a lack of work at home.

Police also sent reinforcements to Ramle, which has a large Israeli Arab community, to prevent retaliatory attacks.

Egyptian extremists threaten Cairo meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Sharia.

The Gamma also claimed Friday's attack in southern Egypt.

Some of the more extreme critics say the conference is an attempt either to discourage popular growth in Islamic countries or to promote liberal views on sex and the family.

The Egyptian government has adopted the same critical attitude towards the conference "programme of action" but has defended the right of the participants to discuss it in Cairo.

The government had hoped the conference would rehabilitate Egypt as a safe destination for tourists, many of whom have been deterred by the political violence of the past two years.

More than 400 people have been killed in Egypt since the Gamma took up arms, most of

them either policemen or members of militant organisations. Most of the casualties have been in southern Egypt, where the Gamma is strongest.

The government has been mobilising the security forces in preparation for the conference and has said repeatedly that it has the security situation under control.

No diplomat said on Saturday that the Gamma statement would have been much more worrying if the attack on the Spaniards had taken place in Cairo rather than in Naga Hammadi, which lies on the Nile 430 kilometres south of the capital.

"I don't think the terrorists can carry out attacks like they did a year ago," he said. "The ringleaders are behind bars."

On Tuesday, the government faces another test for the conference when a court bears a case filed by Islamic activists arguing that to stage the forum would violate Egypt's constitution.

Shaath to sign accord on self-rule on Monday

(Continued from page 1)

that its forces might reenter the Palestinian self-rule zone if the violence continued.

Referring to the Israeli-PLO peace deal, Israel police chief Assaf Hefetz told a news conference in the town of Ramle, scene of the Friday killings:

"We are three months into implementation of the agreement and this is a test of the law-enforcement systems, how they function in a case this grave."

"The results of this cooperation will definitely have consequences as to what hap-

pens further on."

The Hamas group claimed responsibility for the stabbings, vowing to strike twice more by year's end.

In a newspaper interview published before the attacks on Friday, Doron Almog, army commander of still-occupied areas of the Gaza Strip, said his troops could pursue Palestinian assailants into self-rule areas if PLO police "show inaction" in halting attacks on Israelis.

Gen. Majahed said "we regret and completely reject" Gen. Almog's statement.

He said Gen. Almog "ignored the fact that the Palestinian police in the Strip know their duties, are cap-

able of carrying them out perfectly, and need no one's certification that they are carrying them out."

Gen. Almog's warning also failed to take into account the heavy burden left us by 27 years of Israeli occupation," Gen. Majahed told reporters.

Israeli cabinet ministers have generally lauded the performance of the Palestinian police since self-rule began.

But Israeli security forces and hardline opposition leaders have charged the PLO-led police turn a blind eye to Hamas, which has vowed to foil the peace deal with attacks on Jews.

Yerousos, Greek for holy island, lies 16 kilometres north of Paphos, the ancient city dedicated to the worship of Aphrodite the goddess of love.

Apollo was one of the most important Olympian gods. He was concerned especially with prophecy, medicine, music, poetry as well as bucolic arts, particularly the care of flocks and herds.

But he was also associated with the higher developments of civilisation, such as law, philosophy and the arts.

The discoveries were made during a recently completed two-month excavating season by a team of 17 archaeologists and students from the University of New York led by Joan Branton Connelly, associate professor of fine arts.

The statement added that the 30-centimetre-high lion's head spout, "with highly animated eyebrows and jaws sensitively carved in local limestone, presents a unique example of late Hellenistic architectural sculpture in

Peres: No deal with Lebanon without Syria

(Continued from page 1)

There was no immediate word on any casualties from the bombardment.

Hizbullah spearheads a guerrilla campaign to drive the Israelis out of the 1,100-square-kilometre zone they have occupied since 1985.

The statement said that the

Armed Islamic Group, a newspaper reported Saturday,

A communiqué attributed to the Armed Islamic Group,

Suddenly, Milosevic wears a peacemakers halo

Reuters

BELGRADE — Slobodan Milosevic, once the sinister manipulator who persuaded his people to fight for greater Serbia, wears a peacemaker's halo nowadays, at least in the eyes of the outside world.

But strains have remained. Morocco offered no condolences when an earthquake killed 164 people in Algeria on Aug. 16. Algiers offered none when a Moroccan airliner crashed on Aug. 21 killing 44 people.

Tourism ministry figures show 1,237,946 Algerians visited Morocco last year, down from 1.7 million in 1992.

Diplomats said the number of Algerian residents in Morocco was unknown. They include businessmen, teachers and others who have fled political violence which has killed more than 4,000 people in Algeria since early 1992.

Courted by the big powers with their schemes to divide Bosnia between its Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats, Mr. Milosevic is at the centre of diplomacy aimed at bringing the bloodshed to an end after 28 months.

Courted by the big powers with their schemes to divide Bosnia between its Serbs and a federation of Muslims and Croats, Mr. Milosevic is at the centre of diplomacy aimed at bringing the bloodshed to an end after 28 months.

Discarding the aggressive nationalism that thrust him to power in 1988, his priority has become the economic survival of rump Yugoslavia and the lifting of ruinous U.N. sanctions.

Serbs in Serbia regard their wily leader as an arch-cynic or a political chameleon, shifting his ground as

necessity dictates without leaving a footprint.

To the hardline nationalists at home and in Bosnia, he is incorrigibly devious, a traitor to the cause of Serb unity for which so many have died on Croatian and Bosnian battlefields since 1991.

Unable to coerce the Bosnian Serbs by argument, the former banker schooled in the old Yugoslav Communist Party apparatus has turned to force to get his way.

When their hardline parliament rejected the peace plan, he imposed an economic blockade of his own, cutting off the flow of money and vital military supplies to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

The big power authors of the peace plan want only one more proof of Serbian good conduct before starting to unshackle the sanctions that have helped destroy a standard of living that was the envy of the former Communist bloc.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will visit Belgrade on Sunday to persuade Milosevic that international monitors on Serbia's border with Bosnia are indispensable.

The Serb president has meanwhile set out to destroy Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, president



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The unprecedented attack during the referendum was widely publicised by the Yugoslav media which pursued its own campaign against the Bosnian Serbs more accustomed to sympathetic encouragement from that quarter.

Mr. Milosevic's tactic has been to preach a message of moderation to the Bosnian Serbs that would have sat easily on the lips of any U.N. peacemaker.

The Bosnian Serbs risked crossing the line between a legitimate war to defend their national interests and one of conquest, he warned. Even if that hilt of Bosnia was worse than the Muslim Croat share, they should accept it.

Nor did he spare their leaders who have waved in war booty while fighters and their families suffered and died on a weekly pittance.

The Bosnian Serb leadership, with its control of the country's unsound political structure, expects to prevail in the referendum.

But Mr. Milosevic's relentless pragmatism has pushed their backs closer to the wall and made moderation respectable again for the many ordinary Serbs who have always wondered what this war is about.

Speculation mounts over Korean secession

By Kate Webb
Agence France Presse

SEOUL — Speculation has mounted here over opposition to North Korea's heir-apparent Kim Jong-II — fuelled by the first report of dissidence in Pyongyang but bedevilled by lack of information and possible disinformation.

A reported dissident leaflet drop in the tightly secured diplomatic compound in the North Korean capital last week was carried in detail Tuesday by the South's Yonhap news agency.

But it was met initially with scepticism by diplomats and analysts here, precisely because of the history of bitter counter-propaganda between the two Koreas aimed at destabilising one another.

In the words of one Western diplomat: "I wouldn't believe it unless I saw a picture of a diplomat on his doorstep in Pyongyang on Saturday morning with a leaflet in one hand and his morning milk bottle in the other."

But doubts over the leaflet drop report fell Wednes-

day when a German diplomat in Tokyo said the two German diplomats at the Swedish embassy in Pyongyang had confirmed that "leaflets were dropped in several other embassies."

"There is growing uncertainty over the situation in North Korea," one senior Western diplomat told AFP here.

So reclusive and secretive is the Stalinist regime that even the CIA admitted last month it was at a loss to evaluate Kim Jong-II, or the rumours that he was at odds with the powerful North Korean military.

Pyongyang watchers have been left sitting through "the chicken entrails" of broadcasts and television — which showed the junior Kim at his father's funeral, silent and gaunt.

He was — depending on which analysts once listened to — suffering from diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver, partial paralysis or all three.

But doubts over the leaflet drop report fell Wednesday.

Then on Sunday came the most tangible, and most tantalising, clue — a North Korean radio reference to the dangers of "falling prey to treacherous conspirators... if we fail to solve the succession problem."

It was the first reference to a succession "problem," from a country which does not officially recognise problems. And it came on top of a report by Pyongyang's mouthpiece, Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) which called Kim Jong-II's appearance at the funeral "haggard."

The haggard reference came in a report of a doting letter to the junior Kim, who reportedly prefers to work and entertain into the small hours, from a nine-year-old girl who urged him to "go to bed early" and eat proper meals.

But many North Korea watchers have cautioned that the isolated regime matches to its drum, and that Sept. 9 and Oct. 10 are dates to watch for a real indication of where the power lies in Pyongyang.

Sept. 9 is the anniversary of the founding of the country in the ashes of World War II and the birth of the cold war, and Oct. 10 is the official anniversary of the party.

Team finds Cyprus temple dedicated to Apollo

By Rohan Gunasekera
Reuters

COLOMBO — The hand-some widow who has become Sri Lanka's second female prime minister is the latest example of a South Asian tradition where political power has been confined to a handful of ruling dynasties.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, 49, who led the People's Alliance (PA) coalition to a narrow victory on Aug. 16 general election, is the world's first national leader whose mother and father were both prime ministers.

Ms. Kumaratunga's mother, Sirima Bandaranaike, made history in 1960 when she became the world's first woman prime minister, succeeding husband Solomon Bandaranaike after his assassination.

Newspapers splashed pictures of Ms. Kumaratunga as a child with her parents alongside South Asian leaders of a previous generation such as Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi, who also became prime minister.

"...I am particularly pleased that yet another woman has been elected to lead a South Asian nation, following the footsteps of your illustrious mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who was the world's first woman prime minister," Ms. Bhutto said in her message.

Ms. Gandhi was succeeded by her son Rajiv following her assassination in 1984. The younger Gandhi was also killed.

Leading political individuals must come from socially and economically affluent and powerful backgrounds, he said.

"Chandrika (Bandaranaike) Kumaratunga stands in the direct familial and political line of her illustrious parents..." the independent Sunday Island newspaper said in a profile of the new prime minister.

Ms. Kumaratunga is a fresh face in Sri Lanka's political scene and her winsome smile and charismatic personality made her the star attraction in the PA's campaign rallies.



Chandrika Bandaranaike

There is very little generational continuity if the families do not come from an elitist background," he told Reuters. "To be in politics you need a lot of resources, not only economic capital but social capital — prominence and social acceptance."

Leading political individuals must come from socially and economically affluent and powerful backgrounds, he said.

"Chandrika (Bandaranaike) Kumaratunga stands in the direct familial and political line of her illustrious parents..." the independent Sunday Island newspaper said in a profile of the new prime minister.

Ms. Kumaratunga is a fresh face in Sri Lanka's political scene and her winsome smile and charismatic personality made her the star attraction in the PA's campaign rallies.

Champions Manchester United check Tottenham's flying start

LONDON (R) — Tottenham's flying start to the English premier league season, inspired by German World Cup striker Jürgen Klinsmann, was checked when they lost 1-0 to champions Manchester United Saturday.

The London club, winners over Sheffield Wednesday and Everton in their first two games, conceded a headed goal to defender Steve Bruce four minutes after halftime in their home clash.

Tottenham's misery was compounded when striker Teddy Sheringham had a penalty saved — his second spot kick miss in four days — late in the second half.

Klinsmann, scorer of three goals in his opening two matches for his new club, brilliantly hooked the ball home in the 43rd minute but had the effort disallowed for offside.

Goal-hungry Newcastle thrashed Southampton 5-1 — they have now scored 12 times in three games — with defender Steve Watson and marksman Andy Cole both getting two strikes.

Chris Sutton, Blackburn's close-season signing from Norwich, was another forward in form, firing a hit-trick in his team's 4-0 victory over Coventry.

Manchester United, seeking their third consecutive premier league title, often struggled for inspiration and looked unsure against Tottenham's five-man attack.

The champions, having survived until halftime, took the lead after 49 minutes in farcical fashion.

Ryan Giggs curled a right-wing corner towards the far post and goalkeeper Ian Walker slipped over at the critical moment, leaving Bruce with a straightforward, unopposed header to put his side ahead.

Tottenham squandered the chance to equalise from the spot after Bruce tripped Romanian forward Ilie Dumitrescu in the 75th minute.

Sheringham, who blasted a penalty kick against Everton over the bar Wednesday, aimed for the right hand corner but Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel read it perfectly and saved.

Newcastle's thumping home success over Southampton secured a 100 per cent winning record, the only one in the premier league, after three matches and put them top of the table.

A double strike by Watson in the 30th and 37th minutes gave Newcastle the initiative and Cole consolidated with goals after 40 and 70 minutes.

Forward Nicky Banger pulled one back in the 52nd minute but Robert Lee sealed Newcastle's win with an 85th minute strike.

Blackburn, who paid Norwich five million pounds sterling (\$7.77 million) for Sutton in a bid to enhance their title ambitions, have seen the striker swiftly start to repay

his transfer fee. Sutton produced a fine all-round display as Coventry were emphatically beaten 4-0 for the second time in four days.

After missing two early chances, Sutton cleared a Phil Babb header off the Blackburn goalline before the interval and then scored in the 67th, 74th and 89th minutes. Jason Wilcox added to the rout with a 77th minute goal.

Chelsea staged a compelling fightback to snatch a 3-2 victory with a late winner at Leeds.

Leeds raced 2-0 ahead within 19 minutes through South African striker Phil Masinga and Noel Whelan.

But the Londoners reduced the deficit with a Dennis Wise penalty before John Spencer pulled them level and then grabbed the deciding goal with just two minutes left.

Two strikes by German Uwe Rosler thrust Manchester City to a 4-0 home win over Everton, while Nottingham Forest continued an encouraging start on their return to the premier league.

A first-half goal from striker Stan Collymore gave Forest a 1-0 home success against Leicester, who are struggling after being promoted along with Forest at the end of last season. They were hammered by Newcastle and Blackburn during the previous six days.

Borussia Dortmund lead in Germany

BONN (Agencies) — Unbeaten Borussia Dortmund took the solo lead of the German league, beating Kaiserslautern 2-1 as rivals Stuttgart faltered at home to Cologne Saturday, drawing 1-1 and sliding into fourth place.

Karlsruhe, following a 4-1 destruction of Duisburg, were in second place with Werder Bremen breathing down their necks in third place on goal difference after demolishing Bochum 3-0. Midfielder Baster scored all three.

Borussia played Friday and led 1-0 at half time with a goal from Chapuisat in the 40th minute. Zorc added the second from a 74th minute penalty and Kunst got the consolation goal for Kaiserslautern with eight minutes to go.

For Karlsruhe Tarant scored two and Knup and Wueck added the other in the 4-1 win over Duisburg, for whom Koelle pulled one back.

Hamburg won for the first time this season and were the only away winner of the day, beating Schalke 04 by the only goal of the game.

Al Hussein stun Al Faisali, win Federation Shield title

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Hussein stunned the Kingdom's soccer champions Al Faisali when they scored an unexpected 2-1 victory to win the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield trophy for the first time.

Munir Gharaibeh opened scoring for Al Hussein in the 40th minute, however Ja'afar Hammad soon equalised in the 54th minute of the match attended by only 8,000 fans.

Al Hussein's winning goal was scored by striker Ahmad Al Shaqran in the 84th minute dashing Al Faisali's hopes of winning the title for a record fourth time.

Al Faisali had eliminated Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha, who had both also won the title three times each.

The competition — in which only first division teams take part — is one of four championships organised annually since 1981. Other competitions are the first division, the Cup Winner's Cup and the Jordan Cup.

Al Hussein had not won a major title for years. Their best achievement was second from the first division in 1990 and 1992, and in the shield in 1987 and 1990.

Al Faisali, who have been the Kingdom's soccer champions for the past two consecutive years, nevertheless proved that they are



Al Hussein Club's goalkeeper and captain Federation Shield from Youth Minister Fawaz Rateb Al Dhaheri received the Jordan Soccer war Abel Ghannam Friday evening.

Federation Shield Record

1981	Al Jazireh
1982	Al Wihdat
1983	Al Wihdat
1984	Amman
1985	Amman
1986	Al Jazireh
1987	Al Faisali
1988	Al Wihdat
1989	Al Ramtha
1990	Al Ramtha
1991	Al Faisali
1992	Al Faisali
1993	Al Ramtha
1994	Al Hussein

IAAF denies 20 more positive dope tests

PARIS (R) — An International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) spokesman Saturday denied a British newspaper report that he had been informed of up to 20 new positive dope tests.

"I can categorically deny that there are 20 positives," IAAF press spokesman Christopher Winner told Reuters in a telephone interview from Rome.

"Twenty sounds like one of those arbitrary figures that somebody pulled out of the sky because it sounds good."

Britain's Guardian newspaper said Saturday the IAAF had been informed of up to 20 new positive tests among athletes from out-of-competition samples taken worldwide in recent months.

Winner said he was not aware of any new positive test that had not been announced publicly.

He said he believed the newspaper report could have been based on a misunderstanding. "In the last three months we have certainly had over 10 positives," he said, adding that these cases were all public knowledge.

Winner said an unusually large number of tests had been carried out in recent weeks because of the European championships, Goodwill Games and other summer events as well as out-of-competition tests, but that laboratory results were still awaited in many cases.

Albania to give UEFA anti-defection guarantees

TIRANA (R) — The Albanian Football Association said Friday it was surprised by a UEFA ultimatum to guarantee players would not defect but would meet the UEFA deadline.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, issued its ultimatum to the association Thursday, requiring it to provide guarantees by Friday night that it could fulfill all conditions required to play in the European championship.

Gjergj Thaka, an Albanian Football Association official, told Reuters he would answer UEFA immediately, though he expressed surprise at the ultimatum.

"We learnt only today of the ultimatum and worked hard to collect signatures from the players in Albania. But now I can say for sure we have no problem meeting UEFA's deadline," Thaka said.

UEFA warned that Albania

had also denied suggestions by British athletics officials that there had been skulduggery in the doping case of women's 800 metres runner Diana Modahl, who was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada this week.

The British officials said they had been notified that Modahl had shown positive in an initial, or a sample only on Wednesday, nine weeks after the test was taken in Portugal.

Russian officials had apparently known about the result a month earlier.

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"Under this system a player could conceivably win all four majors and not be ranked number one at the end of the year.

"The best of 14 should be abolished immediately. Every time you walk out on court it should count."

McEnroe did seem to be at peace with his decision to retire from competitive tennis.

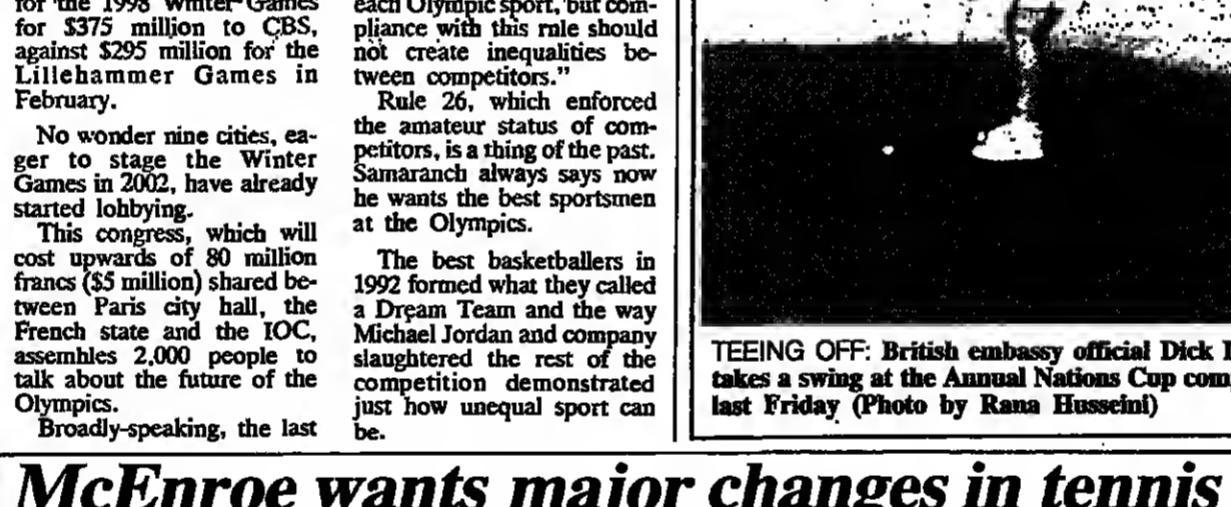
"I don't miss the rigours of travelling and I couldn't take the losing," he said. "That's why I'm just playing exhibitions, although I can't say I'm thrilled even when I lose in exhibitions."

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, issued its ultimatum to the association Thursday, requiring it to provide guarantees by Friday night that it could fulfill all conditions required to play in the European championship.

If Albania and Georgia failed to meet the deadline then their opening matches of the qualifying competition on Sept. 7 — against Wales and Moldova respectively in group seven — would be cancelled and they could be expelled, UEFA said.

On Friday UEFA said it had received the necessary assurances from Georgia that the former Soviet republic had carried out required improvements to stadia and organisation.

UEFA said in Geneva it was satisfied with security in Georgia and had given the country permission to play their opening European Championship qualifying match next month.



TEeing OFF: British embassy official Dick Lockyer takes a swing at the Annual Nations Cup competition last Friday (Photo by Rana Hussein)

McEnroe wants major changes in tennis

NEW YORK (R) — If John McEnroe were in charge, there would be major changes in the game of tennis — like moving Wimbledon or the U.S. Open indoors.

"I have always endorsed the idea of holding a major tournament indoors," said McEnroe, who would rather than sun, wind and other weather elements not be a factor with a Grand Slam title on the line.

"All sports should give athletes a chance to perform at their best and I don't think that's done in tennis," he said.

McEnroe, the best tennis player in the world for much of the 1980s, discussed the current state of the game during a telephone news conference ahead of the U.S. Open, which starts Monday at the National Tennis Centre in Flushing Meadow.

The former tennis bad boy does not think it possible any longer to see the highest quality tennis on French Open clay or the grass of Wimbledon, where he won three of his seven Grand Slam crowns.

"They need to do something about the serve in

men's tennis. The game should be more... at Wimbledon the serve is so big you hardly have chance to get the ball back."

McEnroe, one of the most exciting athletes ever to play the game both for his shot-making artistry and explosive temper, thinks tennis needs to create inequalities between competitors."

Rule 26, which enforced

the amateur status of competi-

tors, is a thing of the past.

McEnroe said something

must be done about the

serve.

"The principles of Rule 26 must be retained and the by-laws made suitable for each Olympic sport, but compliance with this rule should not create inequalities between competitors."

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1994 11

Bugno tests caffeine positive

ROME (R) — Italian Gianni Bugno, winner of two world cycling championship road races, has failed a dope test for caffeine, state television said Friday.

A spokesman for the Italian Cycling Federation (FCI), who said he could not confirm the reports, acknowledged an Italian rider had tested positive but would not disclose his name or the substance until he had been officially informed.

Television reports said Bugno, 30, had tested positive for the banned substance after Italy's Agostoni Cup August 17.

Television later quoted Bugno as denying he had taken anything that could fail a dope test for caffeine.

"I drank a cup of coffee that morning — as I always do. This all seems very strange to me," Bugno said.

"In any case, I have yet to receive any official word on the matter," he added.

FCI spokesman Livio Iacovella said the rider would have five days to ask for another test to validate the finding. His name would be revealed only after the results of the second test had come through.

Iacovella said a simple cup of coffee did not suffice to test positive for caffeine.

"You would have to drink about 10 cups of coffee to do that," Iacovella told Reuters by telephone from the Sicilian city of Agrigento, where the world cycling road race is to be held on Sunday.

Bugno, who won that race in 1991 and 1992, dropped out of this year's version Thursday. He said he had injured his ankle Monday when he crashed in training after swerving to avoid a boy who had wandered into his path.

His left ankle badly swollen, Bugno did not accompany the Italian team to Sicily Wednesday, forcing coach Alfredo Martino to call up experienced reserve Davide Cassani for the race in Agrigento.

A third win in that race was Bugno's dream.

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♦ 6 6 5 ♠ 8 7 4 2
SOUTH ♠ K 10 7 5 4
♦ A K Q 5 2
♦ 6
♦ A 9

The bidding:
South: East North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦
Whether on lead or water, Bill Root is acclaimed as the world's premier teacher. During the course of his career in New York and Florida thousands of pupils have attended his courses. His bridge courses draw more than 100 students every week. This week we plan our recent cruise aboard the Royal Viking Sun.

North's jump to six hearts over the Blackwood inquiry showed one ace and a void in a suit higher ranking than trumps; in this case it could only be spades. South settled for a small slam when we know some who would have contracted for all the tricks.

Declarer won the trump lead, ruffed a spade and returned to hand with the ace of clubs to ruff another spade. One more spade was discarded on the second high diamond and declarer ruffed a club and decided to draw trumps. When hearts didn't break, declarer left a high trump outstanding and started on clubs. Unfortunately, West was able to ruff the third club and cash the ace of spades for down one.

Root had spotted the deal and it was now one of his lesson hands. Declarer needed to cash the ace of clubs and then play all four to win the first trick! The defense could do no better than continue trumps. Declarer wins, ruffs a spade in dummy and then returns to hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps and claim the slam. In all, declarer makes four trump tricks, one spade ruff, two diamonds and five clubs — 12 tricks on the nose.

Hockey might join baseball in limbo

NEW YORK (AFP) — National Hockey League (NHL) owners have given approval for commissioner Gary Bettman to shut down pre-season training camps, scheduled to open in 10 days, unless major progress is made in labour talks.

With North American baseball players already on strike, a lockout would mean two major U.S. sports leagues would be out of work over salary limit proposals by owners. The NHL season is scheduled to begin October 1.

"The rumour is there will be a lockout," Washington goaltender Don Beaupre said. "We haven't agreed to what they want, a salary cap."

NHL players have been without a bargaining agreement since Sept. 15, 1993. Owners and players have met just once in the past five months and no future talks are scheduled.

"The guys are supposed to have saved their money for the possibility this would happen," Edmonton goaltender Bill Ranford said.

NHL officials would not comment on reports Bettman has already decided to lock out players. Bettman has said he wants to avoid a "baseball scenario," with players out at the end of the season as they were for 12 days in 1992.

Bettman sparked hard feelings among players with a letter earlier this month that threatened the imposition of economic cutbacks, including meat money for players when they are on the road.

"We plan on starting the season as scheduled, but we feel they want us to strike," Beaupre said. "They're trying to force these take-

away on us and it's a joke."

The baseball strike and possible hockey lockout could be a harbinger of things to come in the National Basketball Association (NBA), where salary limits have been in place under a contract that expired in June. NBA players want an end to the cap in their current negotiations.

National Football League (NFL) teams are in the first months of a salary cap, which has forced many veteran players to take severe pay cuts or retire because no team can afford to pay what they had been making.

Rosters are filled with younger players and in many cases a few high-paid stars and many lower-paid teammates, even among starters.

Hopes dim for resumption of baseball season

Meanwhile, baseball players and owners were doubtful whether the 1994 baseball season will resume after two meetings this week showed little room for compromise in their labour dispute.

"I don't think we're going to play baseball again this year," Philadelphia pitcher Curt Schilling said.

The first face-to-face talks between owners and players allowed both sides to air their position but accomplished little. New talks are not scheduled.

"Clearly there was nothing else to say," players' union head Don Fehr said.

Owners want salary limitations to keep from spending themselves into bankruptcy by bidding against each other for top talent. They claim many teams are in jeopardy of failing, but have provided no documentation of the position.

"The main issue is managing

Baiul to train in U.S.

KIEV (R) — Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul will leave Ukraine next month to train permanently at a new rink in Hartford, Connecticut, her coach has said.

The offer was made after Baiul won the Olympic title in Norway in 1992.

Coch Galina Zmievskaya said Baiul "was actively and very seriously preparing for the European and world championships. Oksana is ready for battle and full of energy."

The offer was made after Baiul won the Olympic title in Norway in 1992.

Zmievskaya dismissed suggestions Baiul was still suffering

from a back injury sustained on the eve of her gold medal performance. When she collided with another skater in practice.

"Her health is normal, there are no problems resulting from her injury," Zmievskaya said.

Since winning Ukraine's first Olympic gold at the Lillehammer Games, Baiul and her coach have complained of poor training conditions in the destitute former Soviet Republic.

Former President Leonid Kravchuk pledged help to keep the 16-year-old in Ukraine. But proposals by Ukrainian businessmen to provide equipment and even a rink with acceptable ice have apparently fallen through.

Baiul and Zmievskaya have been in a modest hotel in

Dnepropetrovsk in anticipation of their departure.

"Oksana is sitting next to me right now on the floor, studying English," Zmievskaya said.

A sponsor in Hartford offered Baiul the new training opportunity after her Olympic victory over U.S. favorite Nancy Kerrigan.

The president of the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation, Ludmila Mikhailovskaya, said Baiul would enter international competitions in November or December along with Viktor Petrenko, who won Olympic gold in 1992 and who was fourth in Lillehammer.

Mikhailovskaya said both skaters had taken part in the Goodwill Games (in July and August) in St. Petersburg "and they are worn out."

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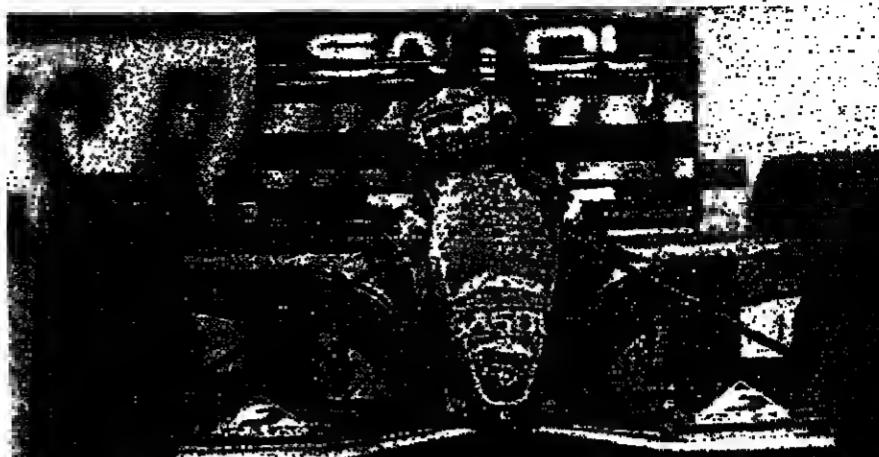
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"We can only be overjoyed at the thought of Mansell coming back," said Patrick Faure, head of Renault

Barrichello gains pole of Belgian GP



Brazilian Rubens Barrichello drives his Sauber Jordan during the first official practice for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix (AFP photo)

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Heavy overnight rain and a track covered in puddles and standing water ensured that Rubens Barrichello claimed his and the Jordan team's first pole position Saturday.

The 22-year-old Brazilian, who sat out the wet final qualifying session, was able to rely on his time from Friday to ensure he heads the grid for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

He will have championship-leading German Michael Schumacher alongside him at the start of the 44-lap race, the Benetton man having been unable to improve on his overnight time from Friday.

"This is my best ever chance to finish on the podium," said Barrichello.

Belgian Philippe Adams, making his debut with Lotus, qualified for his first Grand Prix in 26th and last place on the grid.

Barrichello dedicated his pole position achievement to fellow-Brazilian and inspiration, the late Ayrton Senna, and all the other people who

were believed in me and my ability."

British Damon Hill, who went out but found the conditions worked against improved times, finished third on the grid beside Irvine in fourth place.

The only driver to improve his time from Friday was Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi who moved his footwork up to 24th on the grid with a lap in two minutes and 30.931 seconds.

This meant that the two

pacifies of Frenchmen Bertrand Gachot and Paul Belmondo failed to qualify.

Belgian Philippe Adams, making his debut with Lotus, qualified for his first Grand Prix in 26th and last place on the grid.

Barrichello, who was seen rubbing his hands with glee before being engulfed in a mass of back-slapping team-mates at the end of the session, was asked about Senna.

"I know he got his first pole position and his first win in the wet too," he replied. "I don't know where he is now, but he may be very happy. The wet conditions today, the way I took the pole, the good work of the Jordan team to make all this happen and the fact it was a good lap as well."

"All of this makes me dedicate this to him (Senna) and to all the people who believed Rubens Barrichello

could be in this place now."

Barrichello and his team-mate Irvine revelled in the luxury of being able to sit in their garage and watch the session on television, safe in the knowledge that few if any of their rivals would be able to improve their times in the perilous conditions.

Belmondo also did not go out.

Schumacher was not dis-

appointed. "I would of course be happier to be on pole, but I congratulate Rubens and the Jordan team. I made a little mistake and it cost me my chance of pole position," he said.

"On this circuit, it is good to be on the front row and I am looking forward to the race."

Barrichello said he was

aware that he was sur-

rounded on the grid by two

drivers seeking the cham-

pionship.

"I know what that means and if they are trying to get past me I will let them go. I am only aiming for a podium-finish and this is my best chance."

He would not be drawn on talk about his future — or suggestions that he is poised to join the McLaren team next year — but admitted he was in negotiations with the Jordan team.

Hill said it was good to see Barrichello and Jordan at the front of a fresh-looking grid, but warned that the wet conditions were perilous for the drivers, particularly at Eau Rouge, where a new chicane has been installed.

Hill said he was concerned at the wall on the right side of the track on entry. "But it is the same for everyone and we shall have to get on with it this year," he said.

Desperately seeking bankable star, Formula One eyes former champ Mansell

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — One of the hottest drivers in Formula One nowadays is nowhere in sight. Still, Nigel Mansell is already making some nervous and others giddy with excitement.

With the tragic death of Ayrton Senna, the retirement of Alain Prost and the self-imposed exile of Mansell to the United States, Germany's Michael Schumacher is running away with the championship.

Meanwhile, Formula One is looking for someone to make it a tight race next year and a proven, bankable star to recapture interest.

So talk at the Belgian Grand Prix now centres on the return of the irrepressible Briton, whose daredevil driving earned him the 1992 world title and the adoration of fans around the world.

"We can only be overjoyed at the thought of Mansell coming back," said Patrick Faure, head of Renault

Sports Engines, which supplies the powerplant for Mansell's old team Williams-Renault.

Across the Atlantic Ocean, Mansell is completing a less-than-perfect Indycar season. In his first year he won the PPG Cup, but this year he is invisible and has failed to finish five of the 12 races.

"We know that Nigel is no longer happy in the United States," Faure said. He is still under contract with the Newman-Haas, but the Indycar circuit is already ripe with rumours on possible replacements for Mansell.

And by making a cameo appearance at the French Grand Prix in June, he still loves Formula One enough to return.

But at what price?

Faure said Williams is still having talks with Mansell to lure him back but that nothing is decided yet. Mansell

could even return for some of the late races in this year's championship.

While few doubt it would give the sport a much-needed competitive shot in the arm, competition also means Mansell would claim the leadership position in the Williams stable, now belonging to fellow-Briton Damon Hill.

"It is a fairly close to completion situation," admitted Hill, not exactly jumping for joy.

Even though he already won two grand prix and clinched two pole positions, Hill hardly draws attention the way Mansell did.

During his one-race return this year, Mansell did some testing in Britain and immediately came close to the lap record at Brands Hatch, 20 months after his last grand prix. During the French Grand Prix, he retired with mechanical problems.

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'Arab Afghans' on trial at State Security Court

Editor's Note: Since the legal case involving the Jordan Times' coverage of the Mutah trial is still being heard in court, this newspaper is unable to provide its own coverage of this news item. Instead the Associated Press' report on yesterday's proceeding is carried with only minor editing:

AMMAN (AP) — The State Security Court Saturday opened the trial of 25 Muslim extremists accused of plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks aimed at destabilising the country, disrupting Arab-Israeli peacemaking and attacking American and Israeli interests in the region.

A seven-member defence team argued that the non-jury, three-judge tribunal had no jurisdiction over the case, which involves an alleged clandestine group comprised of former volunteers who fought alongside Muslim guerrillas against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Other defence remarks and minutes of the hearing at the State Security Court could not be published on orders from Hafez Annan, an army colonel, who presided over the two-hour session.

The hearing was later adjourned until Sunday, when Prosecutor-General Mohammad Obaidat was to respond to defence arguments and read out a charge sheet officially arraigning the defendants.

The 25 men were listed in an indictment drawn up by the prosecutor five months after their detention on Feb. 2. However, under Jordanian law, an indictment is not considered official until it is read aloud in court.

According to the indictment, the 25 men belonged to a clandestine group, nicknamed the "Arab Afghans" that sought to topple existing regimes and establish an Islamic caliphate based purely on Muslim law.

It accused the men of illegal possession of arms and explosives, including dynamite and grenades.

It said those were to be used in attacks against state and private institutions, liquor stores, video rental shops and night clubs — regarded by Muslim fanatics as symbols of Western values.

The charge sheet, supplied to the Associated Press by legal sources on condition of anonymity, said the group plotted to kidnap intelligence officers and assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian officials involved in peace negotiations with Israel.

Among them, it said, the group targeted Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali, who once headed Jordan's delegation to the Middle East peace talks.

The indictment said the group, like other Muslim fanatic organisations in the Arab World, vehemently opposed a negotiated settlement with Israel and attempted to torpedo Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

It said the group had also planned to "blow up Israeli and American interests in the region." It did not elaborate.

The indictment said the group was responsible for a handful of bombing attacks since early 1993 on supermarkets selling alcohol and movie theatres showing pornographic movies.

It said the group received funds from Osama Ben Laden, a renegade Muslim leader from Saudi Arabia who is believed to be hiding in Sudan.

Under Jordanian law, such acts are punishable by death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

League turns down Clinton call to lift boycott

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League on Saturday turned down a call from U.S. President Bill Clinton for an end to its economic boycott of Israel, saying the Jewish state must first withdraw from occupied Arab land. An end to the boycott is "linked to assurances of progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks (of the peace process), and an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands occupied in 1967," said the league's secretary-general, Esmael Abdul Meguid. The secretary-general, quoted by the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, said it was too early to consider lifting the embargo in force since Israel was created in 1948. Arab states are waiting for "a just and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East, he said. Speaking to a Chicago gathering of the Jewish organisation B'nai B'rith, Mr. Clinton on Wednesday called the Arab economic boycott a "relic of a bygone era" that "cannot possibly be justified."

Arafat to chair PECDAR meeting in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is to chair a meeting of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) in Cairo on Tuesday, a PLO official said here Saturday. The meeting is to judge how much money the Palestinian National Authority needs to assume its new civilian duties in the West Bank, said Mohammed Sobeh, the Palestinian representative to the Arab League. PECDAR was set up last October to channel international aid for Palestinian self-rule, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho on May 4. "During its two-day meeting, PECDAR will start to evaluate the needs of the Palestinian authority in the light of the transfer of civilian powers on the ground in the West Bank," Mr. Sobeh said. "PECDAR will also discuss the expected position of donor countries, which will meet on Sept. 9 in Paris." Israel and the PLO are to make a joint appeal for funds at the Paris meeting, after signing an accord on the transfer of civilian powers last Wednesday in Cairo.

Barbie dolls sacreligious — Kuwaiti cleric

KUWAIT (AP) — A senior Muslim cleric has declared barbie dolls sacreligious and is urging Kuwaitis not to buy them for their children. The independent Al Qabas daily said Saturday the cleric, Khaled Al Mathkour, made the declaration in response to a question about the dolls during a popular television programme broadcast Friday. The newspaper quoted Sheikh Mathkour as saying Muslims cannot buy barbies because they look like grown-up women and have nothing to do with childhood. The sheikh was out of town Saturday and could not be reached for comment. He is the head of a committee formed by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, to implement Islamic law in Kuwait. The newspaper quoted Sheikh Mathkour as saying the dolls were shaped like statues that are forbiddens by Islam. The emir has recently turned down a parliamentary request to amend the constitution and make Islam the sole source of legislation. He said the committee will see to it that full implementation of Sharia was carried out through "careful and deep" studies. The oil-rich emirate has witnessed a return to Islamic teachings after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion and the Gulf war in which it was liberated seven months later. Muslim fundamentalists hold 19 of the 50 seats in the parliament that was reinstated in 1992 after being suspended for six years.

Cyprus deports 12 Russian suspects

NICOSIA (AP) — Twelve Russians suspected of involvement in mafia-style activities against Russian businessmen on Cyprus have been deported, police announced Saturday amid fears that Russian mobsters are moving into this island business centre. Police said their case against the men fell apart after the Russians allegedly threatened and changed their minds about testifying against them in court. As the men were being escorted onto airliners bound for Russia late Friday, another Russian was arrested in the south coast port city of Limassol. Police said Alexander Victorovic was detained after a pistol was discovered in his hotel room. It was not known whether he was linked to the men who were deported. They were arrested Aug. 19 in the resort city of Larnaca, also on the south coast, after Russian businessmen living on the island claimed that members of the group had demanded protection money from them, threatening to kill their families.

Argentine blast probe is turned inwards

Buenos Aires (Agencies) — Argentine officials are focusing their investigation into the deadly bombing of a Jewish community centre on local groups after backing down from accusations that Iran masterminded the attack.

Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petrela said Friday the investigation "won't be quick."

Argentina's attorney general said Wednesday there was not enough evidence to question Iranian diplomats named in a federal judge's report on the July 18 bombing that killed nearly 100 people.

The abrupt switch in the investigation's focus has been embarrassing for the government of President Carlos Menem, who earlier this month said there was some evidence Iran was involved. Mr. Menem and cabinet ministers openly speculated about breaking off ties with Tehran.

Iran denies any involvement in the attack, and relations between Argentina and Iran are severely strained. Both countries have recalled their ambassadors for consultations.

The Israeli ambassador to Argentina, Itzhak Aviran, maintains that Tehran-backed extremists are responsible for both the July bombing and a 1992 attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 people.

But he said those responsible got help from within Argentina.

"An attack of this kind can't be done without local logistical support," Mr. Aviran told the Associated Press. "It's essential to determine the infrastructure of this local help."

Mr. Aviran said the fact that investigators are nearly certain a suicide driver in the July attack set off the bomb indicates it was carried out by Iranian-backed fundamentalists. But he said he does not have enough evidence to blame any specific group.

Nearly 20 people have been held for questioning since the bombing, but only Argentine Carlos Tellegdin is still in custody. Mr. Tellegdin, 33, is believed to be the last owner of the van used in the bombing, but is not accused of participating in or having knowledge of the bombing.

Israel has threatened to wipe out those responsible for the Buenos Aires blast without taking any action and has called for international solidarity against "Islamic terrorism" without achieving it.

Friday's meeting was also attended by 34 socialist members of parliament, including senior party leaders like Mr. Abu Asfour, who did not flee abroad when the secessionists were crushed.

Mr. Beidh, the former vice-president who led the



KING MEETS WIPO OFFICIAL: His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Saturday Arpad Bogsch, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, political pluralism. He described the Kingdom as serving as a model for the rest of the objectives and programmes. Mr. Bogsch commutes in the region (See related story on page 3)

Yemeni president assures Southern party of its role

SANA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has told southern socialist leaders,

whose forces were defeated in Yemen's two-month civil war, that the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) still has a role to play in the country, one of the leaders said Saturday.

But what that role will be will depend on constitutional changes planned by Mr. Saleh and how successful the socialists are in pulling their fragmented party together and charting its political course in the aftermath of the two-month war that ended July 7.

The president affirmed to us his conviction about the role that the Yemen Socialist Party bloc should play within parliament, "Yeba Mansour Abu Asfour, a member of the party's central committee, said Saturday after an eight-hour meeting Friday with Mr. Saleh.

Sixteen party leaders, including Secretary-General Ali Salem Al Beidh, who fled the country after their forces were defeated by Mr. Saleh's northern army, wanted to stand trial for treason for their abortive bid to secede from the 1990 union of North and South Yemen during the war.

Senior socialists still in Yemen say they are waiting for YSP leaders who are not on the wanted list to return home and begin to convene a party general assembly to determine the party's future.

If that does not happen, they plan to hold an assembly early next month. Party members say they want to be part of the opposition bloc, which would exclude them from the government.

Mr. Abu Asfour told the Associated Press after Friday's meeting: "The president wished us success at our September meeting."

Friday's meeting was also attended by 34 socialist members of parliament, including senior party leaders like Mr. Abu Asfour, who did not flee abroad when the secessionists were crushed.

Mr. Beidh, the former vice-president who led the

secessionist forces and was president of the short-lived breakaway state, is based in neighbouring Oman.

He has yet to make any public comment about his plans. But his hosts have told Sanaa that he has promised to give up politics.

Others like deputy party Secretary-General Salem Saleh Mohammad, former Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas, and former Defence Minister Haithem Qassem are still in exile in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mohammad is not on the wanted list.

Although officials have said that military trials of the wanted 16 would be held in absentia, there has been no indication that these are imminent.

The socialists won 56 of the 301 seats in the unified state's parliament in April 1993 elections. Mr. Saleh's General Congress Party (GCP) took 122 and the tribal and Islamic Al Islah party won 63.

The rest were held by opposition independents, while the three main parties formed a coalition government.

Mr. Saleh has been taking this year forming a new government after the socialists who were in his pre-war cabinet fled after their defeat.

The north-based Islah, which consolidated its political position by backing Mr. Saleh during the war, is pressing for Mr. Saleh to dump the socialists from government and to increase its own representation in the cabinet.

However, Mr. Saleh appears to be making a real effort to rehabilitate the socialists, a task made easier by Mr. Beidh's exile, while cementing his own grip on the country he reunitited by military force.

The government has rejected a statement issued by exiled members in Damascus earlier this month in which they sought to secure the return of exiles by condemning the secessionist movement and calling for political

reforms pledged before the war erupted May 4.

Government leaders have stressed that the rehabilitation of the party depends on removal of the old leadership under Mr. Beidh.

Congress party sources said Mr. Saleh has postponed forming a new cabinet until he introduces amendments to the 1990 constitution when parliament reconvenes within a month after its summer recess.

These are primarily aimed at changing the presidential council whose five members are elected by parliament and who then choose the country's leader.

Mr. Saleh wants parliament to be responsible for directly electing only the president and vice president.

Urgent aid needed

The civil war in Yemen has left hundreds of thousands of people without proper water, food or medicines, the U.N. said Friday.

"The military operation has thrown the country 20 years back," said Awni Al Ani, U.N. coordinator in Sanaa and a member of a U.N. interagency mission, which is appealing for \$21 million to provide urgent humanitarian aid over the next six months.

"Everything has been looted, you go into a museum and there is nothing there. The schools and hospitals have been stripped bare," he said.

The two-month armed conflict wrecked water and electricity networks, Mr. Ani said. Hundreds of thousands of land mines have been laid around strategic sites, along electricity lines, water pipes and in urban areas as well, preventing thousand of people from returning to work.

The fighting has caused an estimated \$3 billion of damage and left some 375,000 people needing emergency food and water, the U.N. mission said.

Shops have closed and the serious water shortage has led to fatal diseases.

8 killed in battle in south Egypt

ASSIUT (Agencies) — A police colonel and five men thought to be Muslim militants were shot dead in a battle on Saturday near the south Egyptian town of Sohag. One policeman was wounded, the Interior Ministry said.

The officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Hosni Hussein, 40, was the most senior policeman killed in Egypt since April 20, when militants shot and killed a brigadier in the southern city of Assiut.

Hussein and a force of policemen had gone to a cemetery area near the village of Salamoun, in Sohag province about 370 kilometres south of Cairo, to arrest the militants.

The militants opened fire, killing the colonel in the early stages of the battle, security sources said. The sources said four policemen were seriously wounded but an Interior Ministry statement later mentioned only one.

Police killed five of the militants and found they were carrying one automatic rifle, four pistols and some ammunition.

Some sources said the battle lasted three hours from 8.30 a.m., others said that it began at 3 a.m. and went on till noon.

The Interior Ministry described the militants as "terrorists" — its usual term for members of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) the main militant organisation fighting the Egyptian government.

It also gave a list of operations for which two of them were wanted.

It said one, Abderrahim Abbas Zaki, had helped kill seven policemen, including a major-general and a lieutenant-colonel, while the other, Khaled Abbas Suleiman, had organised bombings and assassinations.

The attack on Saturday was the third in two days by gunmen thought to be members of the Gamaa, which is fighting to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

The Gamaa said one of its units was responsible for an attack on a tourist bus in which gunmen killed a Spanish boy and seriously wounded his father. Two other Spanish tourists, one of the boy's mother, and an Egyptian guide were also injured.

The shootings marked a new stage of its campaign against the "heretic" Egyptian.

Pablo Usan Calvo became the first holidaymaker to be killed by militants in almost six months when four gunmen ambushed a mini-bus carrying 11 Spaniards near Sohag.

Kuwait presses for sex segregation at schools

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is pressing foreign private schools, which are attracting increasing numbers of Kuwaiti children, to segregate pupils by sex along Islamic lines, a government minister was quoted on Saturday as saying.

"The Ministry of Education is currently encouraging these schools to segregate sexes in senior classes, intermediate and high school levels," the English-language Arab Times quoted Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil as saying.

It said Mr. Dakhil made the statement in a written answer to a parliamentary question.

Co-education is banned at secondary and higher levels at state and private Arabic-language schools but there is no prohibition about mixing the sexes at elementary and kindergarten levels or at most university faculties.

Seeking to involve Iraq in the Arab-Israeli peace process in view of Iraq's economic, technological and demographic potential, and the positive impact Iraq's integration into the peace process would have.

Enabling the Israelis of Iraqi origin to check the conditions of Iraq's Jewish community. He estimated 3,000 Jews remain in Iraq and said the indications were that they were "well-treated and enjoy the personal care of President Saddam Hussein."

These reports have been

roaming in the foreign schools rose sharply after the emirate's 1991 Gulf war liberation from Iraqi occupation.

Meanwhile, an Islamist student leader said she was campaigning for the segregation of teaching in all faculties at Kuwait University because of pressure for the move from women students, the English-language Kuwait Times reported.

"We have not left any stone unturned while campaigning last semester for segregating boys and girls not only in the faculty of arts but also in the whole university," the newspaper quoted Khalid Al Sihihi as saying.

Ms. Sihihi is vice-president of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, controlled by the Islamist Al Ittihad movement at the university where only the Islamic studies faculties was segregated until the arts faculty followed suit.

She said she was "immensely satisfied" with the university's decision to introduce segregation of men and women students from Sept. 24 in the arts faculty.

Faculty Dean Abdullah Al Mahaana said the faculty at Shweikh area would become all-male for a trial period of several months. Women students, who make up two-thirds of the faculty's student roll, would be moved to another campus in the Keifan area.

Teachers say Kuwaiti en-

Column 8

Clinton's back on Martha's Vineyard

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